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"THE BRITISH FLAG."

THERE are certain little bits of sentiment which never fail to bring down thunders from a British audience. One of these—and the most potent of all—is a free use of that capital phrase—the British flag. Because that fine old symbol has floated over so many scenes and acts of real glory and nobleness, it is supposed by many people to justify, by its presence, all other scenes and acts. Yet, one would think that a distinction ought to be made between the kinds of its employment. All Europe venerates the Greek Testament; but it does not prove that old Dr. Johnson was necessarily in the right when he used *his* copy to knock down a bookseller.

To get at the *right* of that long-winded, and now hacknied but still very important question—the Chinese one—we must not only consider the matter of our dignity. There is no doubt many people think of nothing else. It is sufficient for them that a fellow in a pig-tail is offending the British Consul, out-arguing Sir John Bowring, and showing fight against the *Coromandel's* boats. Are not we Britons? and is not he a barbarian? Such elementary considerations (joined to a vague persuasion that we ought to be progressing abroad), content a goodly number of people. They may regret the bloodshed, the interrupted trade, and the rest of it, but the Flag is the great charm; the Flag ought to have the best of it; and the individual conscience must still itself by thinking of the national pride. We imitate, in this mode of thought, a powerful section of the Yankees, who make the phrase, "manifest destiny," serve as a justification of every violent thing done by their countrymen towards other nations. But if we mean to keep our character for morality on a par with our power, we must control this tendency. The early great men who founded our power in the West, prided themselves on a human and generous dealing with the savage races. The Spaniards, who behaved like brutes, have lost their old honour and sunk into slaves.

We are now entering on a phase of our relations with the Chinese when it behoves us to determine what the *morale* of our policy shall be for the future. Of course, we can beat and thrash them. They fight, to be sure, better than they did in the last war; but junks and wooden guns are of no use against steamers and carronades. It is in our power to burn their accessible towns; and some people will not do it less willingly because it is so easy a bit of warfare. Indeed, if we liked, we might get their tea for *nothing*, in the form of a tribute. However, the country is not prepared for such an open way of going to work; it insists on a just and reasonable relation, and not a relation of force. The first necessity, therefore, if we are to act on Christian principles with these people, is a policy of patience—a policy which shall allow for their national character and traditions. We have a right to fair play and free commerce with them; we have not a right to break through the peculiar customs of the people,—for instance, to insist on Yeh's admitting Bowring to live cheek-by-jowl with him, or with the Emperor. Much less have we a right to take a *lucky occasion* of picking a violent quarrel—getting up a scene of slaughter—and all for the sake of objects in the background, which we do not openly avow, but which the *lucky occasion* enables us to work for with shot and shell.

Now, this is the course which we have been adopting in this famous

row. The event of the 8th of October last does not stand by itself, and was never treated as a single incident. Our representatives fixed on the affair of the *Arrow*, and of course it required explanation; but they were big with ideas far wider than those inspired by that lorcha. Yeh had given them "a chance." Nothing easier to a careful watcher than to get such chances. If you want to thrash a fellow, he is pretty sure some day to jostle you or tread upon your toes. The correspondence of our Consul breathes a severity and directness, which indicates that he had got his opportunity, and that he meant to use it.

The technical question about the *status* of the lorcha has been discussed till one is almost afraid to touch it again. But let us compare, in a paragraph the positions of the disputants. If Yeh is in

tisement that soon followed on the correspondence. However, it is by no means certain that Yeh was so wrong. He insists that the colours were not flying: there are depositions the other way; but it does not appear that he had an evil intent against the *British* in the matter. His object was to seize suspected men of his own nation. On the other hand, Bowring and Parkes do discover an *animus* against the Chinese. Yeh may have offended the British flag; but Bowring offended against even higher things. He "burked" all about the expiry of the register in settling his course of dealing, and proceeded to make war against a man for committing an offence, under a plea which, in his letter to his own Consul, he showed to be groundless. He punishes Yeh for offending the British flag,—he admits to Parkes that the vessel has no right to that protection.

But, without repeating details which were first adequately handled by Lord Derby, and have been a thousand times discussed since, the great point of the controversy is this: Admit that Yeh committed an offence, did that offence justify us in carrying out all that has followed? We say "No!" emphatically; not because we particularly care for the consequences to Palmerston, but because we think such doings dishonourable to England. Of the two leading personages in those distant waters—Yeh and Bowring—we decidedly think Bowring has treated the British flag worst. For a stout old Benthamite reared in "the greatest happiness of the greatest number" doctrine to act so violently, strikes us as something at once ludicrous and melancholy.

Some people will dismiss all such considerations as these by calling the Chinese "savages," and insisting on their country being blown open (as rocks are blown open—with gunpowder) for the benefit of the world and the future. We satisfied ourselves, long ago, by the perusal of works—not only perused *à propos* of this "question"—that the civilisation of China, though different from that of Europe, had very high characteristics. But there is a duty to be performed to our own civilisation; and we are not to treat people with cruelty because their complexions are yellower and their faces squarer than our own. Hitherto, the articles of commerce we have obtained from them have formed an invaluable portion of the articles of daily use in England, and have steadily increased in quantity with revolving years. The supply will continue to increase, we believe, under the operation of natural laws, and under the guidance of discreet, pacific and prudent, British

administration in those parts. But it is neither morally right, nor prospectively wise, to get up wars with such nations on unimportant pretexts. They lower our character in Europe, by making us pass for bullies; they interrupt the growth and disturb the operations of commerce on the spot; they embitter the hearts of those with whom we wish to deal, and with whom we ought to be dealing more and more every day; and they demoralise the home population, by filling them with an interest in the details of massacre, and accustoming them to associate the glory of the British flag with triumphs of easy bloodshed. Probably Lord Palmerston thought that the country would take to these scenes with a relish, which would carry him with a high hand through everything. He has found out his mistake.



SIR G. C. LEWIS, M.P., CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)

the wrong, he committed a blunder at worst; if Bowring is in the wrong, he has assuredly committed a great crime. Yeh, if in error, violated the dignity of England, no doubt; but if Bowring be in error, his bombardment of Canton involves him in a responsibility which is awful. Waiving, then, for the present, a decision of the disputed points, let us see whose acts involve the most suspicious features on the face of them. Yeh boards a lorcha, Chinese built, Chinese owned, and whose nominal British captain is not in her, to seek pirates, of whose doings he has had official complaints made. This is, *primâ facie*, no very unpardonable deed. When he is complained to, he returns nine of the twelve immediately. On the supposition that he was in the wrong up to that moment, he showed a readiness to make reparation, which surely did not merit the chas-

SIR GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS, BART.: M.P.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer is the oddest-looking man in the House; and when seen at a distance, as he sits on the Treasury bench, or when he rises to speak, the first feeling of a spectator who is ignorant of his antecedents, is one of wonder, and the question suggests itself, what there can be in so strange a looking man that could have raised him to his present elevated position.

HIS APPEARANCE.

He is about the middle height; has a strongly-built, massive frame, stooping shoulders, and remarkably prominent features. His special characteristic is, however, his nose, which is of the sort called Roman. There are many large noses in the House, but the Right Hon. Baronet's is surely the largest of them all. Sir J. Pakington has no small nasal organ—one, indeed, wholly disproportioned to his otherwise diminutive and prim features. But Sir John carries his nose with a grace, as if it were really a genuine part of his face; while Sir George's looks like an excrescence—something that has been stuck on; and when he walks with his head thrust forward, he looks as if all the powers of his body were in exercise to push forward his nose. But on coming closer to the Right Hon. Baronet, and becoming familiar with his features, you soon begin to see that there are signs of intelligence and character which you did not discover when he was seen from a distant point. There are marks of thoughtfulness in his face, he has a good head, and, in short, on becoming quite familiar with his features, even before you hear him speak, you gradually come to feel that in this instance, as in most others, "Wisdom is justified of her children."

HIS SPEAKING.

Sir George is not a good speaker; in fact, he is perhaps the dullest and most wearisome proser that ever addressed the House. When he rises he first takes off his hat, and places it upon the table with due care. He then, with his face close to the official box (for he is exceedingly near-sighted), proceeds to arrange his papers. This achieved, he leans his left arm upon the box, crosses his legs, and begins—or rather makes a show of beginning, for it is not at all unlikely that even now he will once more recur to his papers, and some half minute or so will be spent in re-sorting, or in searching for a document, before he fairly gets under way. And when he does get fairly off, what a strange exhibition it is! Surely no man was ever called on to address a popular assembly with so few of the qualifications of a speaker. To report one of his speeches literally, is simply an impossibility; and if any adept at the art of stenography could do it, the said speech, when it appeared in print, would be a maze of confusion that few people would care to attempt to thread. The following extract from the "Saturday Review" perhaps does all that can be done to describe the Right Hon. Baronet's manner and manner, and with that, if our readers are not satisfied, they must go and see and hear for themselves.

"It is impossible for those who have not heard him to gather from the reports the faintest idea of the soporific power of this organ of the constitution. His words are squeezed out of him at intervals, like milk from a cow. He has read the dictum of Demosthenes—that action is the first, second, and third requisite of an orator. Accordingly, glancing his elbow to his side, he slaps the table at fixed intervals with the palm of his hand. But this clockwork proceeding being in no way governed by the sense of his speech, the slaps generally go to emphasize the preposition 'a.' A sentence, printed as really spoken, using dashes to express the minute-gun succession of his phrases, would run thus—'I ought to state—I may state—I ought (slap) to state—that my noble friend at the (slap) head of the Government—at the head of the Government—my noble friend the member (slap) for the City of London who was then at the head of the Government (slap), while he assented,' &c."

And yet, strange as it may appear, if you will but listen attentively, there will not be so much difficulty as might be supposed in learning what the Right Hon. Gentleman has to communicate. But then you must listen, and listen attentively, and be contented to travel with the speaker over a very rough and dreary road, with nothing to cheer, nothing to amuse by the way. It was excessively funny to see the House when Sir George was expounding the financial scheme of the year about a fortnight back. The anxiety of the night was to learn whether the "war ninepence" was to come off. Every ear was open—every head was leaned forward to catch the announcement when it should come. But Sir George was in no hurry to gratify his audience. For nearly three hours did he tantalise the House, and keep it on the hooks of suspense—travelling backwards and forwards—repeating and re-repeating—and dragging in all sorts of matter, relevant and irrelevant, until at one time it really appeared that he was either, for some concealed object, talking against time, or else that he had a humorous fit upon him, and was trying the patience of the House just for the fun of the thing. But it was not so. All was serious with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Indeed, who that ever looked upon that face could, even for a moment, suspect any humour in him. No. He was simply working away *suo more*—doing what he thought necessary for the elucidation of his subject. And when the House laughed or showed any signs of impatience, the evident surprise which he manifested proved that he at least had no idea that there was anything remarkable, either in his matter or his manner. And when at last the announcement came, and the majority of the members rushed out of the House, leaving the Chancellor to expatiate upon the tea and sugar duties, and finish his speech to about forty or fifty members, we will venture to say that he never dreamt for a moment that it was his own dreary and prosy speaking that had exhausted their patience. It would be wrong, however, to leave the Right Honourable Baronet here, because, by so doing, we should perhaps impress our readers with a notion that Sir George is not only a bad speaker, but an incompetent Chancellor of the Exchequer, and altogether an inferior man. But this is by no means the case; Sir George is not an eloquent talker; he has not the gift of speech; he cannot pour out his thoughts with the easy perennial flow of a Gladstone; nor can he be epigrammatic like Disraeli; but still he is no common man, and, perhaps, with the one exception of his bad speaking, he is as good a Chancellor of the Exchequer as Gladstone, and certainly far better than Disraeli. Talking is not his forte; but that he can think, and think well, and in writing express his thoughts, he has given abundant proof.

WHO HE IS.

Sir George Cornwall Lewis is the eldest son of Sir Thomas Frankland Lewis, and was born in 1806. He is, therefore, over fifty years of age. He married in 1844, Lady Maria Theresa, daughter of the Hon. George Villiers, sister of the fourth Earl of Clarendon, and widow of Henry Lester, Esq. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, and was first class in classics, and second in mathematics, in 1828. He was called to the bar at the Middle Temple in 1831; was a Poor-Law Commissioner from January, 1839, to July, 1847; Secretary to the Board of Control from November, 1847, to May, 1848; Under-Secretary for the Home Department from May, 1848, to July, 1850; Financial Secretary of the Treasury from July, 1850, to February, 1852; and appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer on the resignation of Mr. Gladstone, with a salary of £5,000 a-year. Sir George entered Parliament first in 1847, as member for Herefordshire, and continued to sit for that county until 1852. He was, however, defeated at the general election in that year, and also in a contest for the representation of Nottingham, in the November following. He is now a member for the Radnor district, where he was elected without opposition in 1855.

As a literary man, Sir George stands high. From 1853 to 1855, he was Editor of the "Edinburgh Review," and has written a goodly number of substantial works. Even since his accession to the office of Chancellor, he has found time to carry through the press an important and excellent work, in two volumes 8vo, entitled, "An Inquiry into the Credibility of Early Roman History."

NEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—In consequence of the adverse decision of the Admiralty in the House of Commons on Tuesday week, Lady Franklin is under the necessity of undertaking, on her own resources, the completion of the search for her husband's expedition. The late period at which this decision is made known renders it impossible to make the requisite preparations for proceeding by the east. The western route by Behring's Straits will therefore be adopted.

THE TERRITORIAL REVENUE AND DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS of the East India Company for the year 1854-5 are published. The gross receipts of that year were £27,312,000, and the expenditure £29,019,000, showing a deficit on the year of £1,707,000. For 1855-6 the estimated value is £27,692,000, and the expenditure £29,754,000, or an excess of the latter over the former of upwards of two millions.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE

WE have no political news from France this week; public attention has been engrossed by the "Docks Napoleon" investigation, which reveals a state of things that reminds one of the times of Law and of the Mississippi scheme. The Docks Napoleon Company seems to have been a gigantic swindle, and one in which a large number of people in good society were more or less implicated. We, in England, have some share of the discredit. All the witnesses in the case agree in denouncing the terms of the contract made with Fox, Henderson, & Co.

A man named Adine, clerk to a *huissier*, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment, sixteen francs fine, and two years surveillance, for having had illegal possession of arms and ammunition. In his house were found secreted a carbine, 3 pistols, a poniard, 378 ball cartridges, moulds for casting balls, and 9 powder-flasks (of which five were full of gunpowder). Portraits of Barbès and Ledru Rollin, some seditious publications and manuscripts, a cap of liberty, &c., &c., were also seized.

SPAIN.

THE Queen of Spain has conferred the Order of the Golden Fleece on the eldest son of the Emperor of Russia, and the Cordon of Maria Louisa on the Empress of Russia.

The Spanish Government has sent the draft of a postal treaty for the approbation of France.

The budget for 1857 is definitively approved.

The municipality of Madrid causes 54,000 loaves of 2lbs. each to be baked every day, and sold at a moderate rate: the quantity is sufficient for about half the population of the city.

A process full of curious revelations, brought by M. Palet against the husband of Queen Isabella, is spoken of. The document produced by M. Palet in support of his claim, is a letter written by the King's own hand, and runs thus:—"I give you, as my father has done, full power to take all necessary steps for bringing about the marriage of the Queen of Spain with me. I know your ability, and am persuaded that all will be ratified by me and my father, and that all the expenses will be paid to you after my marriage out of the first disposable money, either of the treasury or the Royal purse."

According to accounts from Mexico, the Spanish Minister, M. Sorela, who is represented to have displayed great energy in the discussions between Spain and Mexico, had waited on the President of the Republic, accompanied by the Ministers of France and England, and had exacted from him complete reparation for the grievances of Spain within thirty days, under the threat of a rupture of diplomatic relations; he had at the same time sent a despatch to the Captain-General of Cuba, requiring a squadron to be despatched to Vera Cruz before the expiration of the period mentioned.

AUSTRIA.

A NEW and very important reduction in the Austrian army is about to take place. It is said it will be of 496 companies for the whole army, or nearly 50,000 men; and that there will also be reductions in the rifles, engineers, and cavalry.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND

IN addition to the information on the Swiss question which will be found in another part of this journal, we may mention that it is confidently stated that the last preliminary conference between Count Hatzfeldt and Count Walewski, on the affairs of Neuchâtel, will take place very shortly. As to the result, opinions greatly conflict.

RUSSIA.

THE Russian Government has sent a Memoir to the Great Powers, in which it examines in detail the question of the union of the Principalities. This document goes back to 1828, when the Russian troops occupied the Principalities, and makes known the efforts of Russia at that period to prepare the union. It sets forth that Russia, first of all, endeavoured to establish a customs union between the two Principalities, in order to promote their material development, which was embarrassed by restrictions. At the same time, it was desired to place the nobles and peasants of each province in an analogous position, and to unite the Moldo-Wallachian militia under one commander. All these projects, the execution of which would undoubtedly have led to a complete union, failed completely in presence of the opposition of the Porte and the intrigues of Austria—the latter Power fearing that her projects in the East would be compromised by the creation of a strong Moldo-Wallachian state. At length, however, organic regulations, beneficial to the Principalities, were wrested from the Sublime Porte and the Court of Vienna. "It is certain," says the circular, "that greater differences exist in the manners, religion, origin, and language of the inhabitants of certain great European states than between those of Wallachia and Moldavia, and that a union of the two would be of as great interest to Europe as to the provinces themselves."

ITALY.

FROM Naples we learn that on Saturday last the Queen gave birth to a Prince, being her ninth child.

Spinozza, second leader in Bentivegna's movement, and several other fugitives, have been arrested.

The Commander Carafa, Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed a circular to all the diplomatic agents of the King of the Two Sicilies in foreign countries, directing them "to contradict, by all means in their power, the facts falsely announced in foreign journals, that torture is inflicted on political prisoners confined in the prisons of Naples."

Another explosion took place on the 18th ult. in the fort of Vigliana, on the sea-side between Portici and Naples. Little damage was done. It was said that both this explosion and that of the *Carlo III.* were owing to spontaneous ignition of a peculiar compound invented for military purposes by one of the officers who perished on board the *Carlo*.

The note addressed by Count Buol, on the part of Austria, to the Sardinian Government, not only complained of the license permitted to the Sardinian press, but also of "appeals addressed to foreigners, with a view to induce them to join subscriptions publicly opened to strengthen the defensive system of Piedmont, which is not menaced by any Power; the official reception of pretended deputations from our Italian provinces to express their admiration for a policy disapproved by their own Government; finally, the acceptance of a monument, offered, it is said, by subjects of the Emperor, to commemorate deeds of the Sardinian army." To all this Count Cavour has replied that the press does indeed often go to lamentable excesses, and attacks the Emperor in a manner which he (Count Cavour) openly condemns; but, says the Count, "how can the journals which attack the Austrian policy impede the action of the Imperial Government, when their admission into the provinces subjected to the Empire is rigorously prohibited? The attacks of the English newspapers against the Government of the Emperor of Austria were not less violent or less bitter than those in ours; but that did not prevent Austria from seeking, when it suited her interests, an alliance of friendship with England, and from showing her satisfaction and pride at the good relations established with that Power." Count Cavour adds, "If Count Buol is justified in complaining of the violence of a perfectly free press, which is not admitted into the Austrian States, what must be said respecting a press submitted to a severe censorship, which spares neither the institutions nor the political men of our country, and which circulates freely among us? In Piedmont, if the attack is free, so is also the defence." The Count then points to the tranquillity of Piedmont, and to the fact that the Republican party is utterly prostrate, in proof that its political liberty has not been injurious to the country; and then proceeds to answer the other accusations. He says that the monument to be erected to the honour of the Sardinian army the Government has nothing to with, and refused it as a gift from the Milanese. The municipal council, however, accepted the gift, and here the Government could not interfere. "But," says the Count, "if the Royal Government could not prevent the gift of a sum of money to erect a statue in honour of the Sardinian army, meant especially to record the expedition to the Crimea, it will not allow any feature in this monument to hurt the susceptibility of Austria or her

army, nor an inscription to imply that it was erected by Austrian subjects. This assurance appears to me of a nature fully to satisfy any complaints of Count Buol on the subject."

The Grand Duke Constantine arrived at Turin on the 26th ult. from Geneva. He was received at the Susa Railway Station by Prince Carignano, and by King Victor Emmanuel at the Royal Palace.

The Emperor of Austria has issued orders that the Italians shall, in future, be allowed to purchase their exemption from military service.

An Imperial ordonnance, dated Milan, February 28, announces that the resignation of Marshal Radetsky has been accepted. The Archduke Maximilian is officially appointed Governor-General of the Lombardo-Venetian States. General Count Giulay is invested with the military command in Lombardy, Venice, Carinthia, and on the coast.

GREECE.

CORRESPONDENCE from Athens records a stirring scene in the Greek Senate. M. Rangabé, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, had circulated a financial statement intended to show the prosperity of Greece under its existing rulers. In the Senate, on the 12th inst., he was publicly accused of circulating a false document; and he was required to send another circular retracting his falsehoods. Overcome by the fierce declamation of his opponents, M. Rangabé at first turned pale, and could not utter a word. Then he suddenly said—"Sir, I have the courage to disavow the memorandum: I will do what the Senate commands!" The sensation at this moment was very great, and the crowded house echoed with derision and tumultuous exclamations.

The Senate of Athens has protested against a phrase in a ministerial memorandum, accusing certain political parties of obedience to "foreign influences." The Senate having decided that a complaint should be made to the King if the phrase was not withdrawn, M. Rangabé, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has directed the offensive words to be expunged.

A Greek student was recently found concealed, with arms on his person, in King Otho's cabinet, and arrested. He was declared to be insane.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

By Imperial decree the formation of a corps of Gendarmerie, similar to the Gendarmes of France, is directed.

Kabouli Effendi and Kiamil Bey were to set out on the 21st for Jassy and Bucharest, with the Firman for the convocation of the Divans *ad hoc*. The English fleet was still at Buyukdere on the 20th inst.

Two intendants had been arrested at Constantinople for being concerned in a considerable robbery from the Treasury of the Sultan.

The Hungarian, Mehmet Bey, had accepted a high command among the Circassians; and 400 Poles who had belonged to the legion had left for Circassia.

AMERICA.

THE discussion of the Dallas-Clarendon treaty was adjourned until the 5th of March, or the first day of the new administration; it appears that all the southern members opposed it, owing to the slavery clause regarding Honduras.

The Netherlands extradition treaty had passed the Senate.

Mr. Buchanan had not completed his cabinet.

The French Minister had demanded from the Government compensation for the injuries to the French residents during the bombardment of Greytown.

The House of Representatives of Indiana have passed a bill securing to married women whose husbands have been imprisoned for felony, all their own real and personal property, their own earnings during such desertion or separation, and the proceeds of their husbands' debts.

A "Personal Liberty Bill," relative to persons claimed as fugitive slaves, has been introduced into the Wisconsin legislature. It directs trial by jury to be provided for persons claimed, punishes false and malicious arrests of persons as fugitive slaves with 1,000 dollars fine, and gives power to county courts to grant writs of *habeas corpus*.

A bill to prevent the circulation of abolition documents and newspapers has been introduced into the Louisiana legislature. This bill makes it a criminal offence to subscribe for an abolition paper. A bill has also been introduced to render aid to the Americans now in Nicaragua.

A treaty signed between the United States and Mexico provides that the former shall lend Mexico fifteen million dollars, of which three millions go to pay American claims, and the United States is to have a mortgage on the customs revenue, and to receive 15 per cent. of the duties.

The steamer *Tennessee*, from New York, with recruits and ammunition for Walker, had arrived off Greytown, as had also Colonel Titus, with his recruits from Kansas. Colonel Lockridge had proceeded up the river from Greytown, and attacked and defeated 300 Costa Ricans, with a heavy loss to the enemy, and but a trifling one to himself. The advices from Walker's position are to the 3rd of January. These advices are from Walker's agents, and are to be received accordingly. They say that the allies under Covas, had made their appearance in the vicinity of Rivas, but were driven back. On the 28th of January General Henningsen, with 400 troops, attacked 1,500 Costa Ricans at St. George's, and after driving them from their positions, returned to Rivas. Walker's whole force is rated at 1,300 men, of whom 1,100 are fit for duty and in good health and spirits, and having three months' supply of provisions and ammunition.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

THE last mail from Caffreland brings the intelligence that all was quiet, that no rumours of war were heard, and that the Caffres were making their usual purchases at King William's Town.

Heavy rains appear to have been general throughout the country. The appearance of the country is described as splendid, and the grass in some parts is said to be so high as to resemble fields of waving corn.

THE PERSIAN DIFFICULTY.

THE Persian difficulty has at length been settled; a treaty of peace was signed at Paris on Tuesday. This, it appears, had been anticipated; since an armistice of three months had been already concluded between the Commander-in-Chief of the English troops and the Persian Government.

Nevertheless, formidable preparations had been made by the British to open a campaign. The force originally despatched to Persia consisted, it will be remembered, of about 6,000 fighting men, of whom 2,500 were Europeans. On the appointment of General Outram, however, it became known that an army of four or five times the magnitude of that first despatched was intended for the invasion of the country. Since the departure of the General, the 14th Light Dragoons and 78th Highlanders have left Bombay. A battalion 1,000 strong, consisting of the light and left flank companies of ten of our native regiments, was preparing for embarkation, to be commanded by Lieut.-Col. Le-Grand Jacob, one of the ablest officers in the Presidency. The Sind Horse were on their way. The 26th Native Infantry sailed on the 19th of January, and a portion of the 23rd N. I., and the Light Battalion, were on the point of embarkation at last advices.

Our advices from the Gulf extend to the 17th ult. The soldiers, though complaining of considerable discomfort from the extremes of cold and heat, were on the whole in the enjoyment of good health. The 2nd Europeans, who were suffering from severe sickness on leaving Sind, form an unhappy exception, nearly half their number being in hospital. Supplies were becoming more plentiful than there was any reason to expect. Bussorah formed the principal source, abundance being sent into camp down the Euphrates from Turkish Arabia. The Persians themselves were more serviceable in this way than could have been conceived, and were bringing in forage, grain, and vegetables, in good quantity and quality, that might do honour to the Bombay market. Baggage animals were being collected, evidently for an intended foray into the interior. One offensive movement only had been made; this was an attack on a depot of Persian stores and ammunition collected at a place called Chakotah, twenty-two miles from the camp. The service was intrusted to Colonel Tapp, with a party of cavalry and horse artillery, who, marching out of Bushire early on the morning of New Year's Day, returned late in the evening, having accomplished the object of the expedition without loss, and, it would seem, without opposition. There was a rumour that Isen Khan, who defeated Herat, had been killed.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

A NEW budget of news has been received from China. The most important item of intelligence relates to a well-planned, but unsuccessful attempt by the Chinese, to retake the fort defending the Macao passage. This affair is described as follows:—

ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THE TEATOTUM FORT.

The *Coromandel* steam-ship, Lieutenant Douglas commanding, was on Sunday, the 4th of January, lying with the *Niger* and *Encounter* off the Factory Ruins, Canton, when a boat arrived from the Macao Passage (Teatotum) Fort, advising the admiral of the approach below the fort of a large number of Chinese war junks. Steam was got up immediately, and, with all the available boats in company, the *Coromandel* proceeded to a reconnaissance, the *Encounter* being directed to follow as soon as possible. By the time the *Coromandel* got down to the fort, the Chinese had ranged that portion of their squadron, some sixty vessels, that had come down in the Fashan Creek, in a line between Marines' Island and Barrow's Island, about midway between the Macao Passage Fort and the stations of the *Hornet* and *Comus* off the barrier—say a mile and a quarter from the fort, and were exchanging shots. The time chosen for this approach had been well considered; it was a dead low neap tide, consequently a vessel of the *Hornet's* draft of water was unable to get up the passage, the *Encounter* being similarly disabled from getting down. But just as the *Encounter* was under way some twenty or thirty vessels were seen coming into Starling Beach, and it was deemed best to send a few shots into them. The *Niger* and a make-shift gunboat at the boom, took up the fire, and continued it till the Chinese retired. The *Encounter* then attempted to get down the Macao Passage, but unfortunately grounded somewhere off Bird's Nest Fort, and was unable to get to the assistance of the other ships engaged. This being observed from the *Coromandel*, Sir Michael Seymour did not deem it prudent to do more with the *Coromandel* than stand on the defensive, and accordingly dropped back with the tide, still firing from the bow-gun, and sent the boats' crews into the fort. The Chinese, of course, construed the movement to irresolution, and came on bravely to within four hundred yards of the fort, when, from the mines and marines and small arms men, till then under cover, they received repeated volleys, which must have committed great execution. It was about half-past two that a twenty-pound shot from the Chinese struck down Mr. Pearn, master's assistant of H.M.S. *Calcutta*, in charge of one of the cutters of his ship—the wound (in the breast) proving mortal. He only lingered till sun-down, sensible, and speaking of his family to the last moment. This gallant young fellow had been in charge of the same boat throughout all the previous operations, and was an officer of high promise. It was about four, or a little after, that the Chinese, finding they had again met more than their match, and knowing that as the tide made their chances failed, gave signs of an intention to return the way they came, to eliven which movement the *Coromandel* and the boats stirred in their wake, firing shots, shell, and rocket as fast as they could be poured in. As the Chinese boats were crowded with men, the havoc cannot have been trifling. At all events, they were too busily engaged in escaping to answer the fire. By five o'clock they were out of reach in water too shallow for our approach.

The *Comus* and *Hornet* all this time were hard at work too. The former, sprung broadside to Hamilton Creek, poured the contents of her guns into another division of Chinese junks which had made their appearance in that direction, while the *Hornet's* long 68 told upon the rear of the division that had gone towards the fort, committing terrible execution. Meanwhile the boomboats, headed by Captain Forsyth in his cutter, did their best in an unsuccessful attempt to cut off some of the stragglers in their retreat. Just as the engagement was well over, and the *Coromandel* returning to her old berth off the Factory ruins, the *Encounter* came down, anchored for a short time off Teatotum Fort, and then returned to Shamoen.

In addition to the lamentable casualty above mentioned, six men were wounded in the boats, and one boy of the first-class severely burned on board the *Coromandel*. It is supposed that not less than seven thousand Chinese, in altogether some hundred and fifty boats, were engaged in this the most "plucky" action on their part that has ever been witnessed by English naval officers. As the *Coromandel* passed down on the 6th of Jan., they (the Chinese) were again observed with their sails at their mast heads and flags flying, as though they intended trying another attack.

THE "THISTLE" MASSACRE.

The *Thistle*, notwithstanding a previous attack by the Chinese, repeated its voyage to Canton on the 4th of January. The up trip was concluded successfully. The steamer had not been long on the journey down when the captain, who was in the act of stooping forward, looking down, was stabbed from behind with one of those short pointed swords which every Chinese householder in Hong Kong possesses. The first engineer, an American, was on the other side of the engine-room hatchway at the time, and was similarly assailed; two Manila men, who were working at a hand pump below, shared the same fate; one man got into one of the coal bunkers, and there, afterwards, unable to get out when the vessel was set on fire, was burnt. A passenger in the cabin—a Portuguese gentleman—together with his servant, were also murdered, as was a sick artilleryman, who was lying down forward.

The captain, on being stabbed, ran aft, but fell before he reached the cabin door. The mate (Paterson) succeeded in getting into the cabin, and fired several muskets at the wretches as they attempted to get near him. A stinkpot thrown into the cabin at last drove him overboard; and he must have been drowned, as he was never seen to rise. In all, 11 persons were thus disposed of. Search was made for the Chinese boys employed in the cabin, one of whom, by jumping overboard and hiding under the counter of the vessel, succeeded in escaping, as did the others in other ways. The Chinese firemen were then directed to remain at their work, and the vessel was steered up the creek called by the Chinese Chowmei, to the village of Lamkongtow, distant some half a dozen miles inland. There her wood work was set on fire, and when that was destroyed, every particle of brass work that could be removed was taken away; in fact, the vessel was so much disabled that it is questionable whether it is worth while to repair her. The assassins, said to have numbered under a dozen in all, lost no time in walking off with the heads of their victims in handkerchiefs, and at Canton, we suppose, received the rewards said to be offered for such commodities by the gentry and people—to wit, £5 a head. The assassins were on board as passengers.

PRECAUTIONS AT HONG KONG.

The European residents at Hong Kong seem to be in a considerable state of alarm, from the exasperation evinced by the native population.

On the 6th of January Sir John Bowring issued an ordinance declaring the necessity of taking immediate and special means for preserving the peace of the colony, and enacting that any Chinaman at Hong Kong found elsewhere than in his own habitation, between the hour of eight in the evening and sunrise, and without a police pass, should be liable to a fine, to imprisonment with hard labour, to whipping, or to the stocks. By another section of the same ordinance, sentries are authorised to shoot any Chinaman under suspicion of being abroad for "an improper purpose; and who, being challenged by him, shall neglect or refuse to make proper answer to the sentry's challenge."

On the morning of the 15th of January, some of the European residents narrowly escaped being murdered by arsenic put into their bread. Happily the ill-judged quantity caused its rejection by the stomach; nevertheless the effects were widely and severely felt, and some patients were in a delicate state when the mail left. The baker who sold the poisoned bread has been arrested; but doubt exists as to his conviction, in consequence of certain legal difficulties.

The *Calcutta* had taken up a station to the westward of Hong Kong, and sent out a guard every night. The *Bittern* had been re-armed with 32-pounders, and was to be anchored off the Naval Stores. The *Eagle*, a well-armed steamer, had been chartered by the Government, and manned by a crew of 40 men-of-war's men. Besides the harbour police, boats from the United States' ships of war, *San Jacinto* and *Portsmouth*, rowed guard all night; and all Chinese boats were kept at a distance of 300 yards from the shore from sunset to sunrise.

Reinforcements had been sent from Singapore to Hong Kong.

HOSTILE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHINESE.

The Emperor of China has just placed in a state of siege the five ports of the Empire open to Europeans.

A proclamation had been issued by Hiao, acting magistrate of Heang-shung, in which that official informs his people that the English have attacked the chief city of the province, and enjoins them therefore to have no commercial intercourse with Hong Kong, as "it is necessary to stop all communication and trade." All persons engaged in such traffic, or employed in barbarian vessels, are to return to their homes. Goods are also forbidden to be taken to Macao, lest from that place Hong Kong should get her supplies. A furious and infuriating address has been circulating among the Chinese both at Hong Kong and Macao. It purports to have been issued by Commissioner Yeh, and calls upon all the celestial people to unite for a war of extermination. The *Friend of China* states also that several attempts had been made during the first week of the new year to set Macao on fire.

Several outrages are reported to have been committed by the Chinese. Dr. Ryder's "shopkeeper" had been murdered in his bed: his head was cut off. Messrs. Hunt and Co.'s cutter *Excelsior* had been captured by two mandarin boats near Second Bar, and her crew held to ransom. Fifty armed boats had attacked the river steamer *Fiema*, when off Second Bar Creek. She escaped with immaterial damage. Several men had been captured with jars of gunpowder. Four men, shot by the French marine at East Point, were found with fire balls in their possession. Two or three Europeans had been stupefied from taking some soup. A headless body had been found in the Wongneichung Valley, &c., &c.

PROCEEDINGS OF ADMIRAL SEYMOUR.

Remarking on the position of affairs at Canton as they stood on the 15th of Jan., the *Oerland China Mail* says, in a postscript, that the Admiral had landed a body of men and fired the suburbs; 2,000 or 3,000 houses had been destroyed; that the rebel fleet at Whampoa had joined the Imperialists; and that the Admiral had withdrawn the *Sybil* from Whampoa. There was not a single foreign vessel of any description at Whampoa, which place was all confusion.

The following British ships of war were in the Chinese waters:—In the Canton river: H.M.S. *Acorn*, 12; *Barracouta*, 6; *Comus*, 14; *Coromandel*, 3; *Encounter*; *Hornet*, 17; *Sybil*, 44. At Hong Kong: H.M.S. *Albatross*; *Calcutta*, 80; *Hercules* (hospital ship); *Minden*; and *Sampson*, 6. The *Mirage* (tender) was at Whampoa; the *Nankin* (50), at the Bogue; the *Pique* (36), at Shanghai; and the *Racehorse* (14), at Fuchow.

IRELAND.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN ON IRISH TRANQUILLITY.—Mr. Smith O'Brien, who is serving on the county of Limerick grand jury at the Spring Assizes, took occasion recently to call the attention of his brother Jurors to the folly of maintaining the police force of the district at its present establishment. The population had decreased, and the general tranquillity of the county no longer rendered necessary an expenditure for a surplus force which had formerly been put on to meet the exigencies of extraordinary convulsions or agrarian outrage.

SCOTLAND.

A STUDENT'S "ROW."—Professor Laycock was invited, by a local Total Abstinence Society, at Edinburgh, to lecture on drunkenness. He did so, but to the annoyance of his inviters, he condemned the Maine Law, the Forbes MacKenzie Act, and all other means of repression by Act of Parliament. The prominent members of the society replied on the spot to his assertions, and rather warmly repudiated his teachings. This irritated the students of the University, who resented the discourtesy to a favourite professor. New "Temperance" lectures were advertised, and the total abstinence advocates promised to "dissect Dr. Laycock." But the students packed the hall, and made a hearing impossible. They also paraded the streets, burning copies of obnoxious papers. This led to rioting and stone-throwing for two or three successive nights, but the excitement seems now to have subsided.

ART-MANUFACTURE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND.—A second exhibition of this association will be held in Edinburgh, at the close of the present year. Already about 3,700 or 4,000 subscribers have been enrolled in the art-union department, and the committee are engaged in the purchase of prizes to be distributed at the first annual ballot to be made in June next.

THE PROVINCES.

THREE MEN KILLED IN A MINE.—On Wednesday week three men lost their lives at Crich, Derbyshire. They had prepared a blast and fired it, and just as one of the men was about to descend the shaft he fell from the top to the bottom and was killed. Two other men descended the shaft immediately, but were killed by fire damp, and all three were ultimately brought up dead.

BURGLARIES IN THE WEST RIDING.—Four men effected an entrance into the house of Mr. Samuel Hall, of Slade Hooton, a few miles from Doncaster, on Thursday week. They proceeded at once to the bedroom of Mr. Hall, who was roughly awakened from his slumbers, and told by the thieves that they wanted his money. He said he had none, upon which one of the ruffians dealt him a blow on the head with a bludgeon, which rendered him senseless. They then proceeded to ransack the house, and succeeded in carrying away six £5 notes, £27 in gold, some plate, and other property.—On Sunday morning last, the lock-up at Conisborough, not far from the scene of the above robbery, was broken into. The keeper, an old man named James Hobson, hearing a noise, got up, and on going down stairs received a severe blow on the face from a brass candlestick. It was afterwards discovered that two fitches of bacon, two hams, and about £3 10s. in money had been taken away.

STRIKE OF DOCK LABOURERS AT BIRKENHEAD.—Five hundred navvies employed at the Birkenhead Dock works have struck, for an advance of threepence a day, according to some accounts; according to others, the strike arises from jealousy of Irish labourers towards Englishmen. The turn-outs behaved with great violence, driving new hands from their work; and their conduct at length became so alarming that the magistrates applied to Sir Harry Smith for troops. The military speedily arrived—111 men of the 25th Infantry—and were at once quartered in the Town Hall. At one o'clock on Friday week the troops and police, headed by Mr. Harden and Mr. Bryans (magistrates) proceeded to the works, in order to protect the men who were ready and willing to resume employment at the contractors' rate of wages. The male navvies, numbering altogether about 500, disposed themselves over various portions of the works, evidently intending mischief. A number of wagners were then set to work; and a body of the turn-outs at once rushed down to attack the workmen. The police, after a good deal of difficulty, succeeded in driving back the assailants, who, however, were not removed from the ground until a number of soldiers had been marched down upon them. The turn-outs then retired to an eminence which they had occupied before the arrival of the troops, and spent their wrath in execrations. On Monday morning, however, the strike terminated. The turn-outs, made wise by hunger, came in to work on the old terms.

HOCUSING ON THE HIGHWAY.—A young woman, the domestic servant of a lady living near Manchester, was on her way to that town when she was solicited for alms by two powerfully-built men. She said she had nothing to give them, on which one of the men uncorked a phial, and while his comrade held the girl, he poured its contents down her throat. Some persons approaching, the fellows ran off: the young woman was found in a state of stupefaction. She was conveyed to her mistress's house, where she lies in a dangerous state, her throat being severely burned.

GAROTT ROBBERY IN DERBY.—Mr. William Miles, late captain in the 1st Derby Militia, was garrotted on Friday night week in Princes Street, Derby, by four men, who severely injured him, and stole a watch and guard and some silver coin. The men were pursued by a person who saw the attack, and two of them were apprehended.

AN UNREASONABLE STRIKE.—A considerable number of bricklayers in the employ of Mr. Moxon, on the government works on the heights at Dover, determined to strike—not for wages, but simply because they had resolved to choose their own foreman. This was a point not likely to be conceded. Mr. Moxon, failing to convince his workmen by reason that he ought to be allowed to choose his own servants, discharged the whole of them, and immediately telegraphing to London for a reinforcement of men, quietly supplied the place of the malcontents.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY NEAR MONMOUTH.—Mr. John Seys, of the Craig Farm, near Monmouth, had been transacting business at Newport market, and was returning home in his gig, when three men rushed upon him from the side of the road. One of the ruffians grasped the reins, while the other two seized hold of Mr. Seys, dragged him out of the gig, and possessed themselves of his overcoat, a gold breast-pin, and a handkerchief. Mr. Seys had wisely left his watch and his money behind him. Finding so small a booty, the robbers brutally abused him. He was found lying on the ground apparently lifeless. He has, however, sufficiently recovered to give some description of his assailants.

THE CYMER COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—The Grand Jury have returned a true bill against Jabez Thomas, the manager, and Rowland Rowland, the overman, of the Cefn colliery, for manslaughter; but have ignored the bills against Morgan Rowland, David Jones, and William Thomas, firemen. It will be recollected that an explosion took place at the Cefn Colliery on the 15th of July last, by which 114 persons were unfortunately killed. The prisoner Jabez Thomas was manager of the pit, and the other prisoners were employed in the superintendence of it; and the question was, whether the accident had arisen in consequence of the neglect of proper precautions by the prisoners.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

COLLISION.—The New York and Liverpool packet-ship *Great Western*, reached New York recently in a crippled condition, having been run into during a very dark night by a vessel, name unknown. The stranger came quattering on to the *Great Western*, from forward, striking her exactly amidships on the starboard side, her bowsprit first encountering the mainmast, which was broken into four pieces and carried over the weather rail; the mainmast coming down endwise and passing through the deck on the starboard side, breaking off the deck beam in its descent, and ripping up the planks of the deck for a space of ten feet. The ship's side was badly crushed in above the lower deck, four of the heavy beams were broken, with all the carlings between. The deck was ripped up, and the whole topwork amidships received a terrible shock. Strange to say, not a person was killed amidst this fearful crash. Not a word was exchanged between the vessels, and the unknown ship swung clear, leaving the fragments of her headwork upon the decks of the *Great Western*.

LOSS OF A BOAT'S CREW.—One of the cutters of H. M. S. *Herald* was returning from Wakaya, an island adjacent to Ovalau, in the Feejees, while under a press of sail with an overload of coconuts. She capsized, and the officer in charge, Mr. Nugent, a midshipman, and five seamen, lost their lives. Softer from turbulence at the time was the Channel between the island and the ship, that two of the crew swam back to the shore, a distance of two miles, in the blind eye, and another gained the ship with the sad intelligence.

WRACK OF THE PENINSULAR STEAMER MADRID.—The Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer *Madrid*, whilst on her outward voyage from Southampton, struck on a sunken rock at the entrance of the port of Vigo, on the 20th ult. The vessel began to hit fast forward and settle down. The boats were immediately lowered, and the passengers, mails, specie, with some valuable luggage, &c. &c., got into them; this being successfully accomplished, the *Madrid* was beached in shallow water. An effort was made to get her off again.

OBITUARY.

BULLER, LADY.—On the 19th ult., at Lupton House, near Brixham, Devon died Elizabeth, Lady Buller, wife of Sir John Buller Yard-Buller, Bart., and M.P. for South Devon. Her ladyship, who was married in 1825, was the daughter of the late Thomas Wilson Patten, Esq., of Bank Hall, county of Lancaster, and sister of John Wilson Patten, Esq., M.P. for the southern division of that county. She has left one son and one daughter.

PHILLIPS, SIR G. BART.—On the 19th ult. at Pielton Castle, Pembrokeshire, aged 17, died Sir Godwin Langhorne Phillips, Bart., of Pielton, eighth Baronet, and the last male descendant of that family. He was born January 10, 1840, and succeeded to the title on his father's death in 1850. He leaves behind him four unmarried sisters. He was a distant cousin of the late Lord Milford, whose title became extinct early in the present year. The baronetcy ranks among the oldest extant, having been originally conferred by James I. in 1621.

HUNTINGDON, COUNTESS OF.—On the 15th ult., at Ringmore, Queenstown, near Cork, died the Right Honourable Elizabeth Anne, Countess of Huntingdon. Her ladyship was the daughter and heir of the late Richard Power, Esq., of Clashmore, county of Waterford, and married the present and thirteenth Earl of Huntingdon in 1835. She leaves a youthful family.

HAREWOOD, EARL OF.—On the 22nd ult., at Harewood House, near Leeds, from the effects of an accident while hunting, died the Right Hon. Henry Lascelles, third Earl of Harewood, and Lord-Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire. He was the second but eldest surviving son of Henry, second Earl, by Henrietta, eldest daughter of the late Lieut.-General Sir J. S. Sebright, Bart., and was born in 1797. He had been entered at Christ Church, Oxford, when he obtained a commission in the Grenadier Guards. He was present at Waterloo, where he was slightly wounded. He afterwards retired from the army, but held a commission in the Yorkshire Hussars. He succeeded to the Earldom on his father's decease, Nov. 24, 1841; and was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the West Riding on the death of Lord Wharfedale in 1846. It is not a little singular, that the two last Earls have met their deaths in following the sports of the field. His Lordship married, in 1823, Louisa, daughter of Thomas, second Marquis of Bath, by whom he has left a numerous family. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his eldest son, Henry Thynne, Viscount Lascelles, who was born in 1824, and married in 1845 the Lady Elizabeth Joanna De Burgh, eldest daughter of the Marquis of Clanricarde.

WALLACE, SIR J. A. BART., K.C.B.—On the 20th ult., at Loch Ryan, County of Wigton, aged 81, died General Sir John Alexander Dunlop Agnew Wallace, Bart., K.C.B. He had held a commission in the army for nearly seventy years. He had served in Egypt, India, and the Peninsula, and he especially distinguished himself by his gallantry at Busaco, Salamanca, and Fuentes d'Oñor. He was made a K.C.B. in 1833, and became a full general in 1851. He married in 1829, Jane, daughter of William Roger, Esq., by whom he has left a daughter and four sons, the eldest of whom, William Thomas Francis Agnew, Captain in the Grenadier Guards, has succeeded to the title as 8th Baronet.

PACKENHAM, THE HON. AND REV. C. R.—At Dublin, on the 1st inst., in the convent of his order, died Father Paul Mary (the Hon. and Rev. C. R. Packenham), Passionist. He was brother of the Earl of Longford, nephew of the late Duchess of Wellington, and accompanied the Queen on her first visit to Ireland, as one of her aides-de-camp, being at that time an officer of the Guards. He resigned the profession of arms on the occasion of his conversion to the Romish faith a few years since, and joined the order of the "Barefooted Clerks of the Most Sacred Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ."

EXPLOSION AT A FOG-SIGNAL FACTORY.—The extreme eastern portion of the metropolis was startled on Thursday week by a terrific explosion at the fog-signal factory of the Eastern Counties Railway, adjacent to the works at Stratford. Only two of the workmen were in the building when the catastrophe took place; these were a labourer and a lad. The roof and walls of the building, which was of substantial brick, were blown into fragments. Several of the company's workpeople were immediately on the spot, and search was made for the persons who were known to have been in the factory. The remains of the lad (John Jackson) were found sadly mutilated. The body of the man (William Beckingham) was also much disfigured. Both were no doubt instantly killed. The corpse of another sufferer was also found. It was that of a blacksmith named Beckwith, living at Stratford. He was in the act of crossing a field on the opposite side of the line when the explosion occurred, and he was struck on the head by a piece of brick, and killed on the spot. Some other persons were injured. An inquest was subsequently held on these unfortunate people.

Mr. Bell, of the storekeeper's department of the company's works at Stratford, produced a fog-signal, which, when empty, is a circular tin case about half an inch deep, and said that it was the boy's duty to fix three percussion caps on three nipples in the interior of the case; that Beckingham then filled up the cases with gunpowder, fastened on the lids, and returned them to the boy, who secured them with tape, and they were then complete. There were about twelve gross of signals manufactured and stored on shelves round the interior of the building. On a moderate calculation the twelve gross contained 44lbs of powder and 5,184 percussion caps. Besides the fog-signals, there were about 120lbs. of gunpowder in the building in zinc cases. In Mr. Bell's opinion the explosion resulted from the ignition of the powder, and not from the manufacturing of the fog-signals, the whole stock of which, twelve gross, with the exception of about half-a-dozen, was found uninjured and unexploded. The Coroner suggested the propriety of an adjournment. He put it to the jury whether the existence of such a building, and the quantity of powder which it was admitted it had contained, close to works where some hundreds were employed, and the constant passing of trains on the Colchester and Cambridge line, was not fraught with considerable danger to the lives of the public. Several of the jury acquiesced, and it was agreed to adjourn the proceedings in the hope that the Board of Trade would direct their attention to the case.

THE OLD DREADNOUGHT.—The old Dreadnought hospital ship, now breaking up, is found to be in a very rotten condition. On Friday week, two of the men employed were on the mast of the vessel, when Second Master Jones, who was near, perceived that it was giving way. With great presence of mind he called out, "Come down directly—I want you in the rigging-house." The men, unaware of their danger, came down quickly, and in less than a minute afterwards the mast fell with great force. It is more than probable that the lives of the men were saved by the prompt order given.

CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.—While a man of weak intellect, named William Smith, was mowing cotton and wool together, in the teazel, or willow room, of a mill at Kirkheaton, the friction of the machinery ignited the cotton. Smith drew the burning cotton out of the machine, and threw it upon a mass of wool and cotton lying by, which was thus ignited. The flames spread with great rapidity, and before they could be extinguished, damage to the extent of about £2,000 was done. The charred and burnt body of Smith was found crouched behind some oil-casks.—At the brewery of Messrs. Walker and Sons, Ratcliffe, a man named Spanwich was standing on the side of a copper containing a large quantity of boiling liquor, when he fell in, and was scalded in a most fearful manner. He lies in a dangerous state.—Turner, a guard on the Bristol and Exeter Railway, was in charge of the down luggage train on Saturday night. On reaching Hitchbridge, he observed that a truck had been left on the line. Notwithstanding that the train was in motion, he made an attempt to descend, in order to remove the truck out of the way, but unfortunately in so doing he missed his footing, fell, and the luggage van passed over and killed him.

DR. KANE'S LIFE IN DANGER.—A despatch from the Havana, dated Feb. 13, states that Dr. Kane was then seriously ill, and could not last through the day. He had bidden his friends farewell. Dr. Kane is thirty-four years of age. His disease is of a scrofulous nature, arising from scurvy and exposure during his northern explorations. His life has four times been almost despaired of: once in Egypt, from an attack of plague; once in Africa, prostrated by the African fever; once in the Mediterranean, with lock-jaw; and he was dangerously wounded in the Mexican war, while carrying despatches for General Scott between Vera Cruz and Mexico.

CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

SINCE both Houses of Parliament have so fully discussed the Chinese question; and statesmen of European reputations have taken views so different of the state of our relations with the Celestial Empire, and lawyers of profound learning and long experience have promulgated such contradictory opinions as to the legality of the steps taken by Sir John Bowring; we may as well present our readers with illustrations of some of those scenes connected with the struggles—if such they can be called—that have so recently taken place. Recent intelligence from China is to the effect, that Admiral Seymour had, on blowing up the Dutch Folly, retired from the garden, and made the Birds' Nest Fort his out-post. The accompanying engravings, representing the Dutch Folly and a view of that part of the Canton river on which the factories are situated, will doubtless be interesting under present circumstances.

As matters now stand, the capacity of the Chinese for military operations becomes a subject of no slight interest; and it cannot be denied that they have exhibited as great a taste for martial achievements as any nation that owns a place among the records of antiquity. The charms and the brunt battle, the victories and defeats of warlike champions, are displayed upon all their stages; and the educated and the multitude kindle alike with enthusiasm at such spectacles. In all ages, it appears that they have shown a love for fighting, if not always in practice, at least in theory. They have taken a pleasure in the "glorious circumstance of war," although on some occasions they have exhibited a disposition to shun some of its severe realities. They have had frequent struggles among themselves in times of yore, have fought many battles with their neighbours, with different issues; and at this time exercise a real or nominal sway over all the adjoining countries, and an ascendancy which they have gained by their arms.



CHINESE MILITARY OFFICERS.—(FROM A DRAWING BY A NATIVE ARTIST.)

bat for the wavering ebbs and flows of the skirmish, or the unseen wiles of the ambush; but the swarms which the Chinese can bring into the field is a matter of secondary importance. The greater the number the more difficult it is to preserve order, the more easy to catch theague chills of panic, and the more fatal is every volley from the enemy, when scarcely a random shot can be fired without doing execution of some sort. A question naturally arises, What do the Chinese know about military tactics, or the methods of marshalling a host in the order of battle? An unqualified answer could not perhaps be very safely returned to this question; yet we suspect we should not be wide of the truth in saying, "Little or nothing;" because, wherever we are indulged with a view of their soldiers, we cannot discover even the first principles of order. In old times they had some conception of the matter; but while they have improved in industry and happiness, they have declined in almost every branch of knowledge. Tyranny and science are not cater cousins; they are, in effect, the reciprocals of each other; as the one increases the other decreases. Yet, judging of recent events by the accounts that have reached this country, it is not difficult to see that the Chinese have, on this occasion, displayed more courage and determination than they were in the habit of doing in those conflicts which resulted in the peace of 1842; they have, in fact, improved as "fighting men."

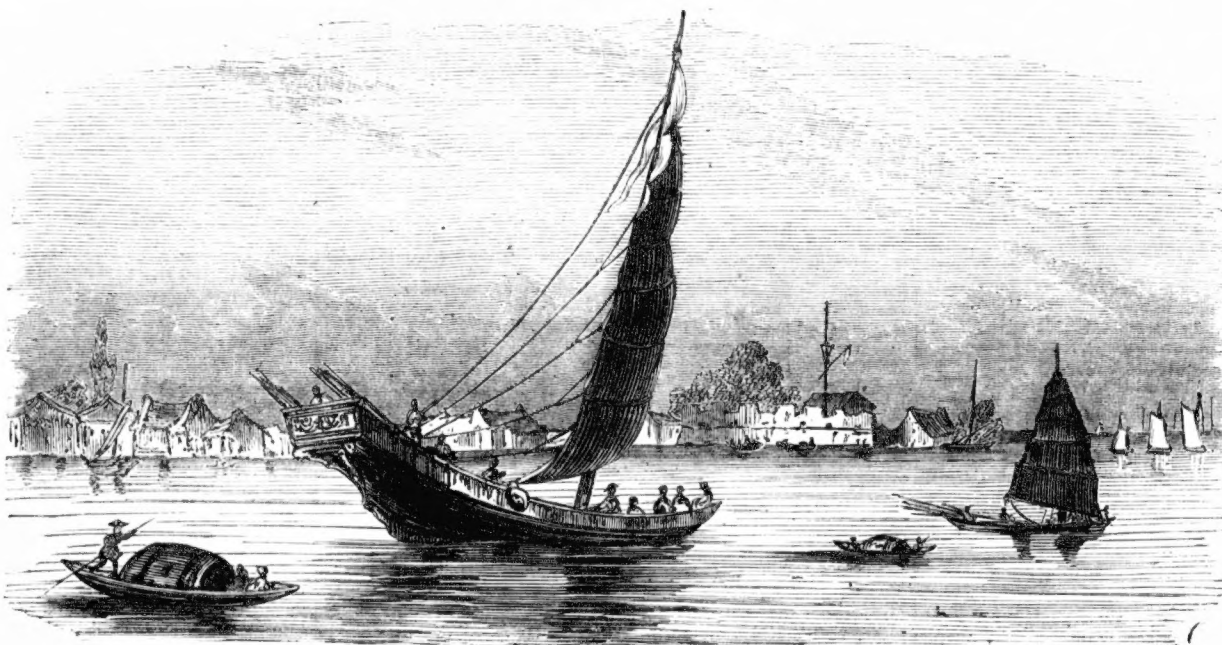
The old military system of the Celestial Empire was peculiar. The Chinese cherish an extraordinary attachment to the number five; hence the soldiers were grouped in fives. Ten of these groups formed a company of fifty men, either of horse or foot; eighteen companies formed a battalion, or "chin." Each company contained five ensigns and five supernumeraries; so that a battalion amounted to four hundred and fifty men. It does not appear that the company was confined to fifty, but was subject to considerable modifications in point of number. When the soldiers were marshalled



VIEW NEAR THE EUROPEAN FACTORIES, CANTON.

The arms of the Chinese consist of various kinds of lances, bows, swords, and matchlocks. They seem to be still imbued with the mistaken notion that the deeds of a weapon must bear a proportion to its size and savage aspect. A short sword and a light target, however, are not unfrequently combined, which, in some instances, have taken a lesson from experience. To the use of these handy tools they are well trained; and are withal taught to run with celerity and ease. Their matchlocks are necessarily contemptible when compared with our muskets; but they will be obliged to put up with them, as China does not supply a gun-flint from any of her vast resources; there are no chalk cliffs, and consequently, no gun-flints.

Everyone is aware that a stout man, well trained in the use of a deadly weapon, is not to be altogether despised as a foe, especially where he has the choice of ground, and can exchange the ordeal of a regular com-



THE DUTCH FOLLY FORT.

in battalions, they at times consisted of thirty-two companies, who were stationed so as to give a certain configuration to the army. Each of these configurations had some fauzy name, as a "flying dragon," "scudding clouds," &c.; it had also eight points corresponding to the eight *kua*, forming part of their system of "Philosophy," for these *kua*, containing the formula or essential theorems of universal nature, were of necessity followed in the arrangements of an army. Thus they took the advice of the Roman orator, and "followed nature;" and here we are sure we cannot choose but to admire their wisdom. The army sometimes consisted of eight battalions, and completed a solid square, in the middle of which the general held his praetorium, or pitched his tent. Twenty-four battalions, with one half picked men, composed two semicircular lines on one side of this square; they were called the "ramblers," and seem to have resembled

fantry of the Romans. Upon these devolved the duty of encountering the enemy, while the general in the middle of his phalanx remained a quiet spectator of the action. This method, we think, seems feasible even to one unused to such considerations. Twelve battalions advance to meet the van of the enemy; each of them from its structure was able to maintain discipline within itself, and to make a firm assault upon the line before it. If any one of them were driven back, it was immediately reinforced by a battalion of fresh men from the rear, and thus another engagement was fought. It is said in praise of the Roman strategem, that the enemy must have had the strength and resolution to overcome them in three several encounters for the decision of one battle; but in the Chinese method, there must have been twenty-four several engagements before the enemy could reach the main body of the army, when he would have to engage a solid square of soldiers who were fresh, and, if what they ought to be, impatient for action.

THE SWISS QUESTION REVIVED.

THE question between the King of Prussia and the Swiss people seems about to re-assume that importance which it lost when, the King of Prussia permitting himself for a moment to be mollified, the Swiss people threw off the fighting attitude they had been compelled to exhibit before the Prussian frontiers, and were militant no more. The King, it appears, was only for a moment mollified; and now returns to the dignified rigidity in this matter which the Cantons vowed to bend or break. But whether that rigidity can be dignified which thawed before the warm demonstrations of the Swiss, and now returns when those demonstrations are withdrawn, is of course questionable; and perhaps it is something more than coincidental that the Prussian monarch returns to those demands which, by strong advice, he ejected from his proud stomach, now that the attention of at least one of his advisers is concentrated upon its own business—in Persia, China, and elsewhere. These, however, are speculations beside the question: let us simply announce, for the present, that, according to information received from Paris, and corroborated by advices from Switzerland, the last propositions of the King of Prussia for the settlement of the question are “not so favourable as were expected”—i.e., are not likely to prove acceptable to the Swiss. They—the Swiss—even seem to feel themselves obliged to fall back in some measure upon the grounds of polite hostility which they recently abandoned.

The militia has been warned to hold itself in readiness in case of an outbreak. The posts are doubled and the gendarmerie has been reinforced by the Guides. The “Bund” publishes an address of the municipal council of Neuchâtel to the inhabitants, recounting various precautionary measures, and urgently appealing to them to join the bourgeoisie-guard and arm themselves for the defence of public order. These preparations are said to be made in apprehension of another insurrectionary movement on the part of the Royalists. The Royalists, however, were too well warned by their late ignominious failure; and we would rather believe that the Swiss authorities advance this apprehension to cover a demonstration which has other sources and another significance, than that the friends of Royalty in Neuchâtel contemplate again running their heads against the grim old edifice of Swiss independence.

EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF LORD HARDINGE.

A STATUE of one of England's famous warriors by one of her celebrated sculptors, is a work of art well worthy of public attention. We have, therefore, no doubt that our readers will feel interested in the engraving which represents the equestrian statue of Lord Hardinge, lately executed by Mr. Foley, and now on the point of being shipped for Calcutta.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that the late Commander-in-Chief figured for a while as Governor-General of India. He assumed that distinguished post in 1844, immediately before the outbreak of the first war of the Punjab. He was on the field of battle from the beginning to the end of the contest, and greatly contributed, by the powerful aid he rendered to Sir Hugh (now Lord) Gough, to bring the contest to a successful issue. The treaty of Lahore, which he concluded, exhibits him in the light of a moderate and magnanimous conqueror.

It is right that a monument should be erected to perpetuate the memory of such a man in that “City of Palaces” which was the scene of his viceroyalty; and we are glad to be able to state that the statue designed by Mr. Foley for that purpose is one of the finest of its kind ever produced in England.

The statue has been for some years in the studio of the sculptor, various adverse accidents having conspired to impede its progress. It bears the impress of genius, and possesses fire and enthusiasm which give to every limb and lineament a vitality and a movement resembling more the sudden mandate of inspiration than a laborious and retarded effort. The proportions are colossal—the height of the statue being fourteen feet, and its length nearly as great. The figure represents Lord Hardinge on horseback, surveying operations on the field of battle. The attitude is easy and dignified, and the expression at once soldierly and thoughtful. The rider has what horsemen call “a good seat” in his saddle, and, what is an important matter in equestrian statues, is so placed upon the animal, that the graceful sweep of the horse's back is preserved unbroken. Owing to the loss of the left hand, the reins are held in the right, and there is much artistic tact displayed in the management of the left arm, which rests upon the hip, where the tassels of the sash fall with negligent grace over the handleless cuff of the sleeve. In the arrangements of the dress, it appears to have been the object of the artist to give a rich general outline, but at the same time to retain all the characteristics of the costume. In this he seems to us to have completely succeeded.

The garb indicates the period, and has therefore that historic merit so much to be desired when it can be obtained without loss of grace. A cloak thrown back over the left shoulder reveals the semi-military uniform which Lord Hardinge used to wear as Governor-General of India. It consists of a frock-coat with a star upon the left breast, trousers with the regulation stripe, a rich sash, and a cross-hilted sword, accurately copied from one which, having been originally manufactured for Napoleon, fell, by the strange vicissitudes of human fortunes, into the hands of his great rival, by whom it was presented as a memorial of friendship to Lord Hardinge. The cloak is just such a one as Lord Hardinge wore in the Peninsula; and the management of the drapery is excellent. It falls round the statue in light and easy folds, and the cloak looks as if you could take it off. The likeness of Lord Hardinge is preserved with fidelity, and the air and contour of the head are grand and vigorous. The figure re-



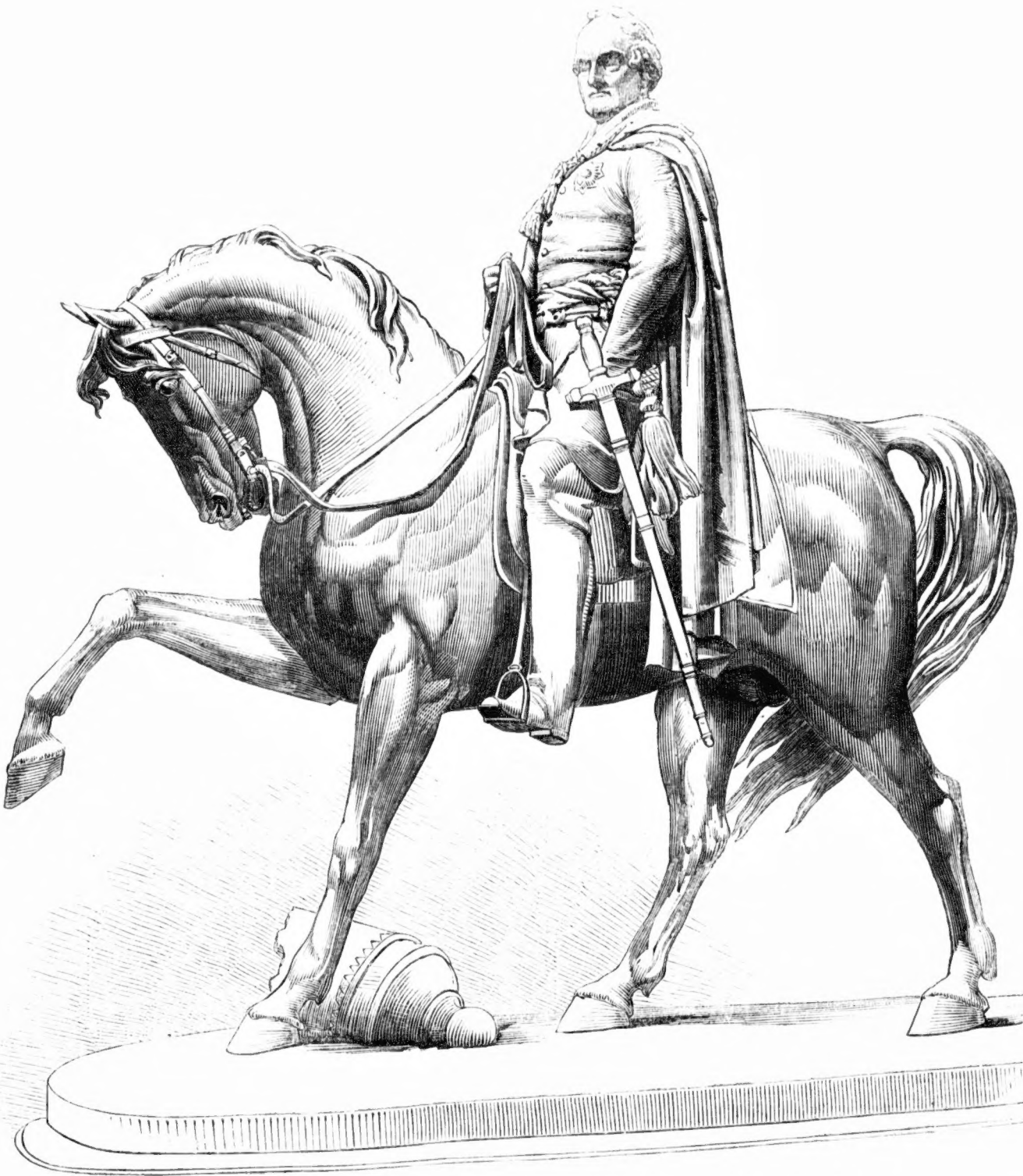
ADVANCED POST OF THE SWISS ARMY, ON THE BANKS OF THE RHINE.

presents its original not in the days of his decadence, but at a period of life when he was still in full possession of his mental and physical powers.

The horse is modelled from life, and represents Meanee, the Arab charger which carried Lord Hardinge through his famous Indian campaigns. Near the fore-leg, and partly sunken in the ground, a shattered Indian gun, and fragments of a gun-carriage, give character to the composition, and help to tell the story of the hero's life. The attitude of the horse is admirable. The arched neck, the head curbed into the chest, the dilated nostril, the billowy flow of the mane, the fore-leg raised as it is in the act of pawing the ground, and the tail lashed inward against the off-hind leg, are all finely expressive of the fiery impatience of the war-steed.

The plinth for the Hardinge Statue will be of bronze, and the pedestal will not exceed the altitude of ten or twelve feet.

It is in contemplation, we believe, to cast a duplicate of this work, for erection in London. Certainly, we are not at a loss for statues; so many have we, and of such a sort, that any proposal to add another to the many disappointments which exist in all the public places only fills the artistic mind with terror. It is another thing, however, to send to Calcutta, uncopied, a statue possessing most of those merits which by this time are assumed to be unknown to English art. We therefore hope that the intention to cast a duplicate will be realised; and that, when executed, it will be erected in some appropriate place—say upon one of the unoccupied pedestals in Trafalgar Square.



EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF LORD HARDINGE, TO BE ERECTED AT CALCUTTA.—(BY J. H. FOLEY, R.A.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XXXIV. CANTON DEBATE—EXCITEMENT IN THE LOBBY.

THE great and all-absorbing parliamentary topic of the week has been the great Canton debate. The excitement in the House and the Lobby has been intense—unparalleled by anything of the sort that has occurred since the great Corn-Law contest. The Lobby has been so crowded, that it has been only with the greatest exertion that the police could keep a clear passage to the House for the Members; and all the galleries, from four o'clock until the House broke up, have been on every night of the debate filled; and there have been besides hundreds of eager and anxious expectants waiting about the House for admittance; and then, many of them—indeed most of them—did wait all the night, and went home disappointed at last. Members' orders they could get, and seemed astonished that, though they had this talismanic paper, they could not get in—forgetting that though, when there is room, this slip of paper is a veritable "open sesame," yet there is one thing that it cannot do—it cannot make space. An order is a good thing to have when there is room; but when there is not, it is as useless as a cheque upon a bank at which there are "no effects." Poor fellows! we could not help pitying them as we saw them jammed together, knowing, as we did, the utter hopelessness of their case. Many of them had come up from the country on purpose to hear the debate, relying upon the omnipotence of their Members; and some, perhaps, had never been in the House in their lives. "What, cannot you get me in?" we heard one say to his Member. "Oh, do try! I never heard a debate, and I have come to town on purpose to hear this." "My dear fellow, what an I to do?" was the answer; "every place is full." "Can't you ask the Speaker to put me somewhere?" "Impossible; the Speaker himself couldn't put his own brother in where there is no room."

Nor was the excitement amongst the members less marked, and, *crescendo*, it increased as the debate went on. It is true, that in the early part of the first evening the members did not seem to be awake to the importance of the crisis. That there was to be a stout fight, everybody knew; but it was generally considered that a majority for Government was secure. But when Mr. Cobden had delivered his masterly speech, and in his quiet but telling way had introduced before the House his terrible indictment, and when it was seen by the cheering which came from all parts of the House that numbers of Members, of all parties, were prepared to support the Hon. Member for the West Riding, then there was a change came over the spirit of the House, and especially over the Government side. It became apparent that this contest was no child's play; and that if the Government meant to resist successfully this formidable attack, they not only had not a moment to lose, but every art and manœuvre which the science and skill of the "Whigs" could bring to bear must be put in requisition. Everybody accustomed to political contests in the House was aware of this change. It might be seen in the looks of the Ministers on the Treasury bench; Hayter's face betrayed it—all calm and imperturbable as it generally is; and the knots of members about the lobbies and in the waiting-rooms—some quietly, and some violently discussing the subject, showed that a crisis of no ordinary importance was at hand.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—GOVERNMENT PROSPECTS DARK. But the excitement was at its height when Lord John Russell delivered his remarkable speech. During the whole of the evening there had been anxious questionings about the way in which Lord John would vote, and but few seemed to be quite decided upon the point until he arose in the House. His Lordship did not, however, leave the House long in doubt; he very soon showed that he not only meant to support Mr. Cobden, but that he intended also to carry all his followers with him; and when he sat down, after having delivered one of the most telling speeches that we have heard for some years past, things looked very gloomy indeed for the Ministry, and many an Under-Secretary and junior Lord began to shake in his shoes. Indeed, there can be no doubt that if the division had come off on that night, Government would have been defeated by a large majority. But that was not to be—trust Palmerston and Hayter for that. Nor was it to be on Friday, the next night. Before Friday night many a message had been despatched, by post and by telegraph; and the large increase in the number of members on Friday showed that all this had not been done without effect. But still further time was required to make things at all pleasant, and the long interval between Friday and Monday night would be invaluable to the Government. In the first place, it would give still further time for members to come up from a distance; and then, secondly (and this is even more important), it would afford opportunity for the appliances of those mysterious and powerful incantations at which your Ministerial "Whips" are such adepts. Exactly what these Circean arts are no one knows but the initiated; but that they are of wondrous power, is certain and not to be disputed. Many a fond dream of independence have they dissipated, and many an inguinate patriotic feeling have they damped down; but how it is done must ever remain a mystery to all but those who are behind the scenes. And so on Friday the debate was again adjourned.

NOT SO DARK. On Monday—and the change was apparent—the Government had recovered from its panic—and the troublous nervousness observable in Hayter's face had passed away—letters had been received, books examined, and it had become apparent that things were not so bad as they seemed—Mr. Hayter was himself again, and the Lords of the Treasury and the Admiralty began to see prospects of salaries beyond the coming quarter-day.

MR. WHITESIDE'S SPEECH. The most extraordinary speech during the debate was unquestionably Mr. Whiteside's. We have heard the learned gentleman deliver many wonderful harangues, but this was the most wonderful of all. We don't mean as to matter, but manner. The matter was reported duly in the morning papers; but who can describe his manner? As we witnessed his gesticulations, how we longed for Cruikshank or Leech to be there, that he might be presented in one, even if only one, of his wonderful positions; but, alas! no artist is allowed in the House; and words are altogether powerless. We remember Edward Irving, and we have seen many an actor "tearing a passion to tatters," but nothing comes up to Whiteside.

THE DEFEAT. Since the above was written the smash has come. In a House of 510 Members, at half-past two o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the Government was beaten by a majority of sixteen. Up to the last the event was uncertain; such was the confusion of parties, that no one could calculate accurately who would win. As the time for dividing came, the excitement throughout the House became more intense than ever, and so crowded were the Peers' Seats and Diplomatic Galleries, that it was with the utmost difficulty that they were cleared in time. In fact the Diplomatic Gallery was not cleared, for one unfortunate foreigner was shut in, and very perplexed he looked when he was made to understand that he was in custody; and not less so, when after due consultation held with the Speaker, the Serjeant opened the door, and drove him to the outer Lobby. The Duke of Cambridge and members of the diplomatic corps, the Russian, American, Austrian Ministers, &c., not only sat patiently listening to the debate, but waited outside until the numbers were declared. The great speech of the debate was Gladstone's. Some went so far as to say that it was the greatest harangue that he ever delivered. The cheers whilst he spoke were almost incessant. Palmerston's speech evidently produced but little effect. Poor old man! it was painful to see him hobbling up stairs on two sticks to fight such a battle. It is bad enough at seventy-four years of age, to sit from five o'clock till one, and then to rise and reply in a speech of an hour to such opponents as Gladstone and Cobden, Russell and Graham, but to have to contend with the gout as well must be anything but pleasant. Well, we suppose that the Palmerston Ministry is at an end, unless the plucky Premier should dissolve. And now, Mr. Cobden, "What Next? and Next?"

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Lord John Manners has been elected for the Northern Division of the County of Leicester—Glasgow will be contested by Mr. Alexander Graham and Mr. Merry, both Liberals. Sir John M'Neill declined to be nominated—for East Sussex the show of hands was in favour of Mr. Dodson; Viscount Penvensey demanded a poll.—A petition against the return of Mr. Weguelin for Southampton, and of Mr. Kennard for Newport, have been presented to the House of Commons.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE MURRAIN.

In answer to Lord Polwarth, Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY stated that the Customs authorities possessed ample powers to take all requisite precautions, if any second necessity, to prevent the spread in this country of the cattle murrain, which was reported to have become epidemic in various districts of North Germany. The Government, he added, had received no special information on the subject.

Some unimportant business being despatched, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE RUSSO-PERSIAN TREATY.

LORD PALMERSTON, replying to Mr. Layard, cited the authority of the Russian Ambassador for the statement that there was no truth in the rumour of a new treaty, involving a concession of territory, between Persia and Russia.

SIR J. McNEILL and COLONEL TULLOCH. To a further question, the Prime Minister replied that £1,000 each had been offered, by way of honourarium, to Sir J. McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, and declined.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

The adjourned debate on the late proceedings at Canton was resumed by Mr. WARREN, who, disclaiming all factious motives in discussing what he regarded as a momentous question, insisted that it could not be condensed into a dry legal argument. The reason assigned for the war into which the country had been dragged, he regarded as a flimsy pretext for carrying out a long cherished design. He denied that the Chinese had given a fit occasion for war, and he challenged the law officers of the Crown to disprove the law laid down in the House of Lords upon the question. Having looked into the matter dispassionately, he felt it to be his duty to affirm the resolution.

The LORD ADVOCATE remarked that when appeals were made to justice, the House should not forget that some measure of justice was due to the functionaries who were required, at a great distance from home and under very serious responsibilities, to do their best in vindication of British honour and interests. Two charges, he said, had been preferred against Sir J. Bowring—that he had committed a breach of international law, and inflicted an unjustifiable punishment for a trivial wrong. On the first point he argued that the protection claimed for the Arrow was founded upon an ordinance which the Chinese themselves had recognised for a long period without remonstrance. The pretence, founded on the expiry of the lorcha's license did not apply. The character of an outrage depended upon the animus with which it was committed. Evidently the Chinese designed to perpetrate an insult on the British flag, and there was no cause left but to take prompt notice of the wrong, and require a fitting measure of redress. With respect to the alleged severity of the retribution inflicted, he urged that it must not be merely measured by the final cause of disturbance, which might be of insignificant proportions in itself, but was the crown to a long series of injuries, and the exponent of issues of the greatest possible importance.

Mr. WHITESIDE sought to rebut the legal assumptions of the Lord-Advocate, referring to the supple tent treaty with China, the terms of which necessarily overrode any mere ordinance of a colonial governor, and the purport of which, as he interpreted and applied it, fully exonerated the Chinese, and left the British functionaries responsible for all the atrocities subsequently perpetrated.

Mr. HORSFALL contended that the name and the flag of the Arrow sufficiently characterised the nationality of the vessel, and he believed that the insult on the part of the Chinese was complete and intended. He felt it to be his duty, he said, to vote against the motion, because he should otherwise be guilty of an act of great injustice; the vote would amount, in effect, to a vote of censure upon Sir J. Bowring and Admiral Seymour, as well as upon Lord Carnarvon and her Majesty's Government; and, although he differed from them upon many questions, he did not see anything to justify a vote of censure. Above all, he looked to the consequences which the adoption of the resolution might entail upon British property, British interests, and British life in China.

SIR C. NAPEL was satisfied that Sir M. Seymour must have been convinced that the Arrow was a British vessel, and the demand for reparation was a reasonable one. That demand had been refused, and Sir M. Seymour must have adopted the course he took, or have pocketed the affront, and borne the imputation of a want of courage and resolution.

LORD GODERICH, in supporting the motion, severely censured the conduct of Sir John Bowring, and asked whether the House was prepared to lay down the doctrine that the doings of our agents abroad, although they abused the prerogative of the Crown, must be approved.

Mr. BENTINCK could not vote for the motion, although approving it upon abstract principles, because he apprehended the complications that must ensue in China if Parliament interfered by a vote of censure with the serious questions now pending between the British and Chinese authorities.

SIR M. DICKENSON eulogised the forbearance and humanity displayed by Admiral Seymour.

SIR J. GRAHAM also vindicated that officer, and extended the vindication with some reserve to Sir J. Bowring, whom, however, he characterised as being more remarkable for the honesty of his intention than the discretion of his acts. The Right Hon. Baronet then reviewed the recent transactions in detail, arriving at the conclusion that the lorcha Arrow possessed no title to be treated as a British vessel. He believed that the colonial license granted to the owner was invalid from the beginning; but if not, it had certainly expired. The Chinese authorities had therefore a perfect right to board her, and there was conclusive evidence in the published correspondence that Sir J. Bowring was perfectly aware that, owing to the expiration of the license, the lorcha was not entitled to British protection. Yet he had in another part of the correspondence maintained the contrary, thereby knowingly practising upon the Chinese Government a deception, upon which he founded a demand for reparation. And not only had Sir John Bowring not been censured for a falsehood, which in an attorney would have been punished by his being struck off the rolls, but his acts had been approved by the Government. Sir James then dwelt upon the effect of the military and naval operations upon the Cantonese, and he asked the House whether they were prepared to adopt the approbation of those transactions which had been expressed by her Majesty's Government. He thought it was high time to arrest such proceedings. He would wash his hands of the innocent blood which he believed had been shed; and he never gave a vote with a more conscientious conviction of its propriety than the vote he should give in favour of the motion.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL began by analysing the arguments employed upon this question in the House of Lords, which were reduplicate, he said, to those three propositions.—First, that the colonial ordinance, on which the registry of the lorcha depended, was at variance with an Imperial statute, and therefore utterly void; second, that, supposing the colonial ordinance valid, the register granted to the Arrow was defective and had expired; third, that, even if the ordinance were valid and the register good and subsisting, it did not qualify Chinese to possess the vessel, or exempt it from the authority of the Emperor of China. He then proceeded to discuss the several propositions. He maintained that the title of the Arrow to be considered a British vessel did not rest upon the colonial ordinance, but upon the treaty with the Chinese, and that it was an error to suppose that the colonial ordinance was a violation of the Imperial statute, which was inapplicable. Two things, therefore, were clear—that it was wrong to suppose that the colonial register was inconsistent with the Imperial statute; and that, assuming the register to have expired or to have been irregular, it was not competent to the Chinese to take advantage of those defects. The Attorney-General then addressed himself to an argument of Lord Lyndhurst on the question of international law, contending that the true point was whether a natural-born subject of China becoming a resident at the British colony of Hong Kong, and therefore a British subject, might not by virtue of the treaty own a ship and receive a register which would entitle it to all the privileges of a British ship, and he argued upon authority in affirmance of the proposition. All the three objections, he contended, were devoid of foundation, and it was hard, he said, to stigmatise poor Sir John Bowring, and hold him up to ridicule, as guilty of error in a question respecting which Lord Lyndhurst was at variance with Lord Wensleydale, and Lord St. Leonard's, and the Lord Chancellor were in direct opposition. The debate was again adjourned.

MONDAY, MARCH 2.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

LORD GRANVILLE, in reply to Lord Grey, said that no change had taken place in the position of affairs in China, and that reinforcements had been sent to Hong Kong.

Some other business was then despatched, after which their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

In the House of Commons, the adjourned debate upon Mr. Cobden's resolution, that the papers on the table failed to establish satisfactory grounds for the violent measures resorted to at Canton, was resumed by

Mr. R. PHILLIMORE, who disputed the validity of the Arrow's register, and denied that she carried a British flag at the time of her being boarded, as well as the British character of the vessel. But, assuming that the British authorities were right in regard to this vessel, he contended that the legal course of proceeding was by reprisals, seizing property in pledge; that, moreover, full satisfaction had been rendered for the wrong, and that it was not lawful to make war or even reprisals for the punishment of a nation apart from reparation.

SIR G. GREY vindicated the course adopted by the authorities at Canton, declaring that the Home Government, upon a deliberate review of the circumstances and in consideration of all the important interests which might have been compromised by any symptom of weakness or indecision, had given their

cordial approbation to the acts of the Commissioner at Hong Kong and his colleagues, and were ready to assume the full responsibility for the consequences that had ensued. Defending the conduct of Sir J. Bowring, the Home Secretary showed, by many references to the published despatches, that every transaction accomplished during the late disturbance had been undertaken by common consent of all the functionaries on the spot, and after frequent conferences with Mr. Parkes and Sir Michael Seymour. The whole charge against the Commissioner had, he maintained, been founded on misapprehension or misrepresentation. With regard to the vote before the House, Sir G. Grey forbore to inquire into the political change it might inaugurate, or the party combinations that were said to have been formed in its support, but invited the Legation to give their cordial support to public officers who had faithfully done their duty, and defended British interests in a moment of extreme emergency.

Mr. ROBERTSON expressed his conviction, from the experience of a long residence in China, that the insult conveyed by the seizure of the crew of the Arrow was altogether intentional. He proceeded to give illustrations of the cruelty, barbarism, and insolence of the Chinese. The question, he said, should be decided upon no party motive, but with regard to the heavy peril which, if we now drew back, would be set our whole position or commerce in China.

SIR J. PARKINGTON contended that the debate had evaded the real question at issue. The defence offered for Sir J. Bowring had, in his opinion, altogether broken down. His investigation of the circumstances had led him to the conclusion that the case founded on the alleged insult to the lorcha Arrow was untenable, and the subsequent proceedings wholly unwarrantable. The British Government were sanctioning the effusion of blood upon doubtful grounds. They ought, in his opinion, to have recalled Sir J. Bowring and Consul Parkes upon first receiving intelligence of their proceedings.

Mr. COLLIER reiterated a variety of legal arguments antagonistic to the resolution; and in conclusion said that if the House affirmed the resolution it would amount to a concession that we had been in the wrong from the beginning; the Chinese Government would be entitled to reparation, and would demand an apology. By negating the resolution we only affirmed that when a treaty was violated and the British flag insulted we were bound to exact redress and reparation.

SIR F. THURSTON, adopting a contrary view, also traversed a wide range of legal technicalities, adding many considerations to prove that the act upon which Sir J. Bowring had fastened the quarrel did not, in strict justice, give him any ground of complaint. He (Sir Frederick) urged that when a reprisal had been made upon a junk, there should have been an end of the affair. The papers before the House inspired him, he said, with sorrow, shame, and indignation, and would remain a lasting monument of the bad faith of England.

SIR W. WILLIAMS, from experience gathered during a long course of service in the East, was convinced that all treaties concluded with Oriental nations must be framed on stricter principles, and maintained with a more jealous vigilance, than the conventions between two European communities. The inhabitants of those countries had separated themselves from the rest of the world, and it was their own fault if more civilised races treated them as inferiors. Believing that in the case before the House the Chinese had perpetrated an intentional and premeditated insult, which it would have been unwise to overlook, he intended to vote against the resolution.

Mr. S. HERBERT agreed with those who, in the papers before the House, admitted that the Arrow was not a British vessel—that Kennedy was only the nominal master—that the owners of the license were not British subjects—and that if the lorcha had been a British vessel, the reparation obtained was far more than the occasion required. This had been confessed by Mr. Consul Parkes, and the officials thereupon cast about to find a pretext for exacting further satisfaction from the Chinese. The fact was, that Sir John Bowring, having got together a fleet, though "circumstances were auspicious" for requiring the fulfilment of the article of the treaty stipulating for access to Canton, and in spite of repeated prohibitions from home, demanded the immediate concession of a claim which had been suspended many years. It had been said that all these transactions had had the general concurrence of Sir M. Seymour. But how was it obtained? By false pretences employed by Sir John Bowring, who had made, he said, a disingenuous use of despatches from home. Mr. Herbert then censured the conduct of the Government in commending the judgment, firmness, and moderation of those who had inflicted so much suffering upon the Cantonese. He, on the contrary, felt the deepest indignation at force exercised with so little mercy on pretexts so transparently fraudulent.

SIR JAMES SHEP re-opened the legal argument, contending that, under the supplemental treaty, the Arrow was to all intents and purposes a British vessel.

The debate was then adjourned on the motion of Mr. J. G. Phillimore.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE DIVORCE BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill.

Considerable discussion ensued, in the course of which the Bishop of Exeter moved that the second reading should be deferred for three months.

On a division, the motion was carried by a majority of 25 to 10. The bill was then read a second time.

Some further business was transacted, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

The adjourned debate on the China question was resumed by Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER, who said that it was indispensable that the Government should justify the beginning of hostilities by showing that the Chinese had been guilty of a violation of their duty towards Great Britain. This they had failed to do; and he therefore must support the motion of Mr. Cobden.

Mr. GIBSON asked why no attempt had been made to refer the matter to the Emperor of China, who might have reprimanded Commissioner Yeh? Instead of this, hostilities were at once commenced, which made it difficult for the Emperor to do us justice. With regard to the nationality of the lorcha, he cited a dictum of Dr. Lushington, to the effect that it was not competent to any State, by its own regulations, at once to change the national character of a vessel, to the detriment of other States, which confirmed, he said, the view taken by Lord Lyndhurst of this question, that this country had no right to convert a Chinese ship into a British ship.

Mr. OSBORNE, premising that the question had been so obfuscated by the arguments of lawyers that it had got into a morass, invited the House to discuss it upon broader grounds. The real question, he said, resolved itself into two points,—first, were Sir John Bowring, Mr. Consul Parkes, and Sir M. Seymour justified in the course they had adopted after deliberate consideration, they being on the spot; secondly, were her Majesty's Ministers worthy of censure for their support and approval of their officers? After reading a ferocious proclamation issued by the local Government of Canton, ridiculing the proposal of Mr. Gibson to refer the dispute to the Emperor of China, and censuring his reflections upon the merchants trading with China, he warned the House that the consequence of passing a vote of censure upon the Government in this matter would be the presentation of a bill for damages by the American and other merchants to the amount of £5,000,000, besides the loss of life.

Mr. HENLEY said if there was any reasonable doubts as to the facts of the case, the Government should have the benefit of it; but he protested against any inference in their favour being drawn from a character of the Chinese, which was foreign to the question. In the matter of the lorcha, he the Chinese right or wrong, was not the seizure of the forts a sufficient reprisal and reparation? He thought it was. But, after this, the case was complicated by another demand, the right of entry, under the treaty, into Canton; and there was not anything in the papers which led him to the conclusion that it was a justifiable demand, or that it was wise policy to endeavour to obtain its concession in the mode that was adopted.

Mr. J. PHILLIMORE expressed his deliberate conviction that in point of law the Chinese were completely in the right, and that the pretence for calling the lorcha a British ship was a manifest absurdity.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS opposed the motion. He had arrived at the conclusion that, in point of law, we were right in the matter of the Arrow. But it was almost immaterial whether we were right or not; it was perfectly plain that Commissioner Yeh did not know that the vessel was not under British protection. Here was a public offence ostentatiously given in the face of a people who would be influenced by the act, and we asked not merely a reparation to the extent of the exact thing done, but which touched the moral and political wrong; and this was refused.

Mr. ROEBUCK recognised in the motion a vote of censure upon Lord Palmerston and his colleagues; they had approved all the acts of their officials at Canton, and the House ought to fix the responsibility upon them. The Attorney-General, he said, had argued, as if he had a retaining fee, a question which ought to be argued upon the principles of morality and humanity. But even supposing the law to be as the Attorney-General had put it, the people of England were not prepared to sanction the proceedings at Canton. The Chinese may have been wrong, but if so, they erred in common with great luminaries of the law in this country; and he (Mr. Roebuck) saw no reason why they should therefore be punished, their houses shattered, and their relatives butchered.

Mr. GLADSTONE protested against the making Sir John Bowring a stalking-horse to divert the attention of the House from the real matter at issue, which involved the interests of humanity and the honour of England. He then reminded the House that no answer had been given to the objection, that, if a wrong had been committed by the Chinese in the case of the Arrow, the proper remedy was by reprisals. And when we talked of treaty obligations by the Chinese, what were our treaty obligations towards them? The purpose for which Hong Kong was given to us was that it should be a port in which British ships might careen and refit. Was not our contraband trade in opium a breach of treaty obligations? Had our Government struggled to put it down, as bound by treaty? Had they not encouraged it by organising a fleet of lorchas under the British flag? Mr. Gladstone dwelt with much energy upon the calamities which

the war had inflicted upon the Cantonese, and urged that if the House had the courage to assert its prerogative, and adopted this resolution, it would pursue a course consistent at once with sound policy and the principles of eternal justice.

Lord PALMERSTON said, he should not have expected from Mr. Cobden such a motion, or such a speech in its support; nor should he have anticipated the bitterness of his attack upon Sir John Bowring. If there was any man less likely than another to get the country into hostilities, it was Sir John Bowring, who had been a member of the Peace Society. But what most surprised him in Mr. Cobden's speech, was the anti-English spirit that pervaded it, and an abnegation of the ties which bound men to their country and countrymen. With regard to the event which had given rise to this discussion, he should not go into the legal argument as to whether the vessel was English or not; this fact did not lie at the bottom of the question. We had a treaty with the Chinese, stipulating that British vessels should not be boarded without a previous application to the British Consul, and the question was, what did the Chinese know or believe as to the nationality of the Arrow? Did they consider her a British vessel? He said they did, and if they knowingly violated the treaty, it was immaterial whether, according to the technicalities of the law, the register had expired. It was the animus of the insult—the wilful violation of the treaty—that entitled us to demand reparation for the wrong, and an assurance of future security. He, however, thought, for reasons which he stated at some length, that the vessel was entitled to the protection of the British flag, and that the objections to the register were mere quibbles. He insisted that, after the refusal of reparation—only one of many violations of treaty rights by the Chinese—hostilities were simply justified. It had been said that reprisals should have been first resorted to, and so they were, he said, but without effect. What, he asked, was the Government expected to do? To send out a message to Commissioner Yeh that he was right, and that he might repeat his outrage upon other British vessels? This would be withdrawing from the British community protection against a merciless barbarian; it would disgrace this country in the eyes of the civilised world, and especially in the estimation of Eastern nations.

Mr. DISRAELI thought Sir John Bowring had been unfairly treated in the debate; if his conduct had been ratified by the Government, it should not be impeached by the House. The question was not one of law, but of policy; the policy of the Government being, not by diplomatic action, but by force, to increase our commercial relations with the East.

Mr. COBDEN having replied, the House divided, when the numbers were—for the motion, 263; against it, 247: majority against the Government, 16.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4. HOUSE OF COMMONS. INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS' BILL.

In the motion for the second reading of this bill, Mr. ALCOCK moved that it be read a second time that day six months. He did so on the ground that the bill was unnecessary.

Mr. HAILEY seconded the motion. Mr. BAINE, on the part of the Government, supported the principle of the bill, and stated that he would give his assistance in committee to improve its details.

Lord STANLEY supported the principle of the bill, believing it to be sound. Mr. NEWGATE opposed the bill. He thought the workhouse schools might be improved so as to meet its objects.

Mr. BOWYER objected to the principles and details of the bill, on the ground that there was no protection for the religious teaching of destitute Roman Catholic children.

Mr. Adderley and Mr. Spooner having spoken in favour of the bill, Sir J. PAKINGTON also spoke at length in its support, since its purpose was to provide for the children of the intermediate class between the honest poor and criminals, and who had been described as the "perishing and dangerous class."

After some further debate, Mr. Alcock withdrew his amendment, and the bill was read a second time.

Some other business having been transacted, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5. HOUSE OF LORDS. THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

Earl GRANVILLE stated the circumstances which had induced the Government to resolve on a dissolution of Parliament as soon as the necessary acts of the Legislature had been passed in almost the same words as were used by Lord Palmerston in the other House.

AFFAIRS AT CANTON.

Earl GRANVILLE said that no change was proposed in the management of affairs or the course of policy pursued by the authorities at Hong Kong, but every effort would be made to terminate the existing hostilities with the least possible delay.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

Lord PALMERSTON rose to say that the House would naturally expect, after what had passed on Tuesday night, that he would state the course which Her Majesty's Ministers intended to pursue. After the House had, by a combination of parties, affirmed a resolution which was avowedly a vote of censure, under ordinary circumstances, they could hardly have any alternative but to tender to the Sovereign the resignation of their offices. But the present case seemed to be of so peculiar a character that they had felt it to be their duty not to submit their resignation, but to advise the Crown, at the earliest period which the state of business before the House would permit, to call upon the constituencies to return a new Parliament. It was vain to deny that the vote of Tuesday rendered it very difficult, if not unseemly, for any Government to conduct the business of the country, in the state of parties which the vote indicated, throughout the session. But the state of public business did not allow an immediate dissolution. The estimates had not been voted, taxes were to be imposed, and the Mutiny Act had not passed. What he proposed, therefore, was a course which had been adopted on a previous and similar occasion—namely, to be content with provisional and temporary measures, to continue taxes which had been voted for three years only for the ensuing year, to vote sums on account of the estimates, and to continue the Mutiny Act for a portion of the year, leaving other matters to the new Parliament, which would assemble in May.

Mr. DISRAELI thought the course proposed by Lord Palmerston would be most to the public advantage, and he would, he said, give every faculty in his power to the progress of business. He believed that the appeal to the country would prove of great benefit to the public interests, and he trusted members would be returned with more definite opinions.

Mr. COBDEN inquired what was to be done by the executive in pursuance of the late vote, and as regarded the disturbances in China? British subjects and property were left in extreme peril, and required protection. As three days remained for action before the overland mail left, he recommended the despatch of some important functionary to the spot, who might take charge of affairs, protect our fellow-subjects, and put an end to the existing hostilities.

Sir C. WOOD assured the House that the safety of British lives and interests in China had not been left unsecured. A large naval force had by this time arrived either near Canton, or was on the voyage thither, and he felt convinced that our authorities would be amply provided against every contingency.

Sir G. GREY stated that the Government did not intend to supersede those functionaries in China, or to instruct them to abandon their demands. This, he apprehended, would compromise the honour of the country.

Lord J. RUSSELL insisted that the House, when asked to grant supplies on account, were fully entitled to demand what the Government meant to do with them, or how the important issues now pending in China were to be managed during the three months that must elapse before Parliament could re-assemble. He denied that the late vote had been carried by a fictitious combination, and believed that it would be always remembered to the honour of the House of Commons.

Mr. ROEBUCK also repudiated the charge of conspiracy, declaring that his vote was prompted only by indignation at transactions which disgraced England.

Mr. GADSTONE was amazed to find, from the confession of two cabinet ministers, that the judgment so unequivocally pronounced by a solemn vote of the House was to be altogether ignored by the Government. Having condemned the hostilities in China, the House was at once entitled and bound to exact a clear understanding as to the future policy which would be adopted on that question before voting money, and practically surrendering the uncontrolled administration of affairs to the executive for nearly three months. Mr. Gladstone also warmly repudiated the charge of conspiracy.

Lord PALMERSTON admitted that the House had a right to ask what was intended to be the policy of the Government. There would be no change, and could be no change in that policy, which was to maintain in China, as elsewhere, security to the lives and property of British subjects and the rights of the country arising out of treaty obligations, and to improve our relations with China. The intention of the Government, as he had stated on Tuesday, was in conjunction with France and the United States, to endeavour to place those relations upon a permanent footing, and it must be a subject of serious deliberation on the part of the Government who the person should be to whom was to be committed so grave and important a function.

After some further discussion, the subject dropped.

THE CITY FORGORIES.—Anderson and Seward were tried at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday. The evidence was merely a recapitulation of what had previously been reported. Both prisoners were found guilty. Sir F. Theiger (who conducted the prosecution) said he was instructed by the Bankers' Association to state, on behalf of Anderson, that there was reason to believe he had been made a tool of by others, and also that he had given important assistance in getting up the prosecution. Sentence postponed.

Literature.

The Life and Opinions of General Sir Charles James Napier, G.C.B. By Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. NAPIER, K.C.B. Vols. I., II. London: Murray.

A LIFE of the conqueror of Scinde, by the historian of the Peninsula, can hardly be perused without pleasure and profit. The near relationship of the biographer to his hero is decidedly calculated to heighten the interest; and the work is not one with which the intelligent reader will be in any respect disappointed. True, he will come into collision with many of those "fancies" which are supposed to haunt the brains of "the Napiers," much of their peculiar tendency to get into controversies, and many manifestations of that eccentricity which ever and anon prompts them to "kick against the pricks." But, at the same time, he will find constant indications of the courage, chivalry, high spirit, and fine sense of honour which have ever animated the gallant and gifted men who bear the illustrious name, in defending the right, doing battle with the wrong, advocating the cause of the poor and humble, and denouncing the oppressor and the perpetrator of injustice, no matter how exalted his rank or high-sounding his name.

Sir William, in his opening paragraph, impresses us with a knowledge of what manner of man was he whose career we have to trace, and what kind of spirit animates the writer whom we are fortunate enough in having as our guide:—

"This shall be the story of a man who never tarnished his reputation by a shameful deed; of one who subdued distant nations by his valour, and then governed them so wisely that English rule was revered and loved where before it had been feared and execrated. For thus nobly acting, the virulence of interested faction was loosed to do him wrong; honours were withheld, and efforts made to depreciate his exploits by successive governments: nevertheless his fame has been accepted by the British people as belonging to the glory of the nation."

We believe that Sir Charles Napier derived his descent, in the male line, from those Scots of Thirlstone, celebrated by Sir Walter in "The Lay of the Last Minstrel." About the beginning of last century one of that Border clan espoused the heiress of Napier, and their son as her heir, figured as fifth lord. This nobleman was blessed with several sons. Of these, one was father of the Gallant Admiral who did not take Cronstadt; another, George by name, married Lady Sarah Lennox, daughter of the second Duke of Richmond, and was father of the famous hero who did conquer Scinde. It was at Whitehall, on the 10th of August, 1782, that Sir Charles James Napier drew his first breath, but he was at an early age removed to Ireland; and this has sometimes led to a mistaken notion as to the country of his birth.

"When he was three years old, his father settled at Celbridge, a small town on the Liffey, ten miles from Dublin, where he was close to Castletown, the magnificent house of Mr. Conolly, who had married Lady Sarah's sister, Lady Louisa Lennox. Near Carton also, the abode of the Duke of Leinster, who had married Lady Emily, another sister, mother of the high-spirited but unhappy Lord Edward Fitzgerald. A fourth sister was Lady Caroline, the first Lord Holland's wife, and mother of Charles Fox. These cousins were all six in descent from Henry IV. of France on one side; but Charles Napier traced his lineage on the other to the great Montrose, and the still greater Napier of Merchiston, inventor of logarithms; hence the blood of the white-plumed Bearnos, mingled with that of the heroic Highlander in his veins, and his arm was not less strong than theirs in battle."

We will not of course venture to question the taste and propriety of tracing a man's descent from the hero of Ivry, through the progeny which "Madame Carwell" fathered upon Charles the Second; but we cannot help thinking that when Sir William was on a point of pedigree, he might have made some slight allusion to the Scott blood which ran in his hero's veins. Many people will be of opinion that the conqueror of Scinde resembled "John of Thirlstone," much more closely in many respects than he did the inventor of "logarithms," or "the white-plumed Bearnos"—in none more perhaps than being "Ready, aye ready for the field."

When Napier was a child, it appears that he was slight and of low stature, though both parents were tall and strong—his father gigantic. He soon gave indications, however, of being no ordinary boy, and cherished an eccentric admiration for men whose military achievements formed part of history, as his own were destined to do:—

"As a child, Charles Napier was demure and thoughtful, and his expressions generally had a touch of greatness: thus, when only ten years of age he rejoiced to find he was short-sighted, because a portrait of Frederick the Great hanging in his father's room had strange eyes; and because Plutarch said Philip, Scortius, and Hannibal, were one-eyed, and Alexander's eyes of different colours; he even wished to lose one of his own as the token of a great general; unknowing then that none of God's gifts can be lost with satisfaction. But a longing for fame was with him a master passion, and in his childhood he looked to war for it, with an intense eagerness; yet no thing savage ever entered his mind, his compassionate sensibility was that of a girl; it was displayed early and continued till death."

Napier was early dedicated to the military profession. In his thirteenth year he obtained a commission in the Duke of Wellington's regiment, the 33rd, but he was soon transferred to the 89th, then at Netley Camp. His father happened to be Assistant Quartermaster-General to the force; and Napier having been taken thither, was thus early initiated into the ways of soldiers. On the breaking up of the camp, however, he was exchanged into the 4th Regiment, and instead of joining, went to a school in Ireland, "then seething in the heat of coming insurrection." A circumstance which occurred to Napier about this period produced a lasting impression on his memory. He writes:—

"When a boy at Limerick, a rascal half persuaded me to be a Methodist; but he seduced his maid, he seduced me, and so betrayed the secrets of his principles. Soon afterwards he was detected cheating the public, and turned out of the custom-house. What an insufferable rogue, to have been too bad even for the Limerick customs!"

It appears that after Napier had entered upon military duty, he conceived a thorough dislike of his profession. "To me," he writes, "military life is like dancing up a long room with a mirror at the end, against which we cut our faces, and so the deception ends. It is thus daily men follow their trade of blood, thinking it glitter; but to me it appears without brightness or reflection—a dirty red!" The young officer who thus wrote in his twenty-second year led a monotonous life till 1808, when, after the battle of Vimiera, he was called to Lisbon. His colonel then obtained leave of absence; and the 50th Regiment falling to Napier, Sir John Moore incorporated it in the army which was going to Spain, and which was destined to encounter so many of the horrors of war.

"During the retreat Charles Napier, serving in Lord William Bentinck's brigade, so justified the favour of Moore, that the 50th's ranks were full at the battle of Corunna, and puissant was the shock with which they met the greatest assaulting French column on that fatal field, driving it back with fire and steel beneath the eyes of the general, who with exultant applause gave instant orders to support the impetuous counter-stroke. Had those orders been obeyed Soult's army would have been lost, but just then the heroic Moore fell, and error followed when the presiding spirit was gone. The 50th was not supported, and fighting amongst lanes, houses, and vineyards, was scattered in small bands, when fresh enemies came down to overwhelm the broken ranks. Stanhope was killed, and Charles Napier, covered with wounds, was carried off a prisoner; far in advance, and hidden by inequalities of ground, his desperate contention was unobserved, and was in the despatches unnoticed."

After much suffering and a variety of strange adventures, Napier was restored to liberty and his country.

"During his captivity, Charles Napier's family mourned for him as dead, yet hope lingered, and after three months the Government sent a frigate to ascertain his fate. Baron Clouet received the flag and hastened to inform Ney. 'Let him see his friends, and tell them he is well and well treated,' was the Marshal's response. Clouet looked earnestly but moved not, and Ney, smiling, asked why he waited? 'He has an old mother, a widow and blind.' 'Has he? Let him go, then, and tell her himself that he is alive!'"

At Busaco, Napier was again in the field; and on that memorable day he was desperately wounded. His bearing on the occasion is thus described:—

"This anticipation of a retreat was well founded: Almeida fell, the army retired, and Sir Charles Napier, clinging to the light division, was engaged in all the skirmishes until the English general, halting on the Busaco Mountain, offered battle. There riding in the train of Wellington, at the point where Regnier's corps assailed the position, he remained on horseback when the fire was so terrible that all the staff, and all the volunteers, with exception of his cousin the present Admiral Napier, had dismounted. He, seeing him the only mounted man in a red coat, when all the others were in blue, urged him to alight; at least to put on his cloak, or he would be marked down. His answer was, 'No! This is the

uniform of my regiment, and in it I will show, or fall this day.' Scarcely had the words been uttered when he fell! A bullet had entered on the right of his nose, and lodged in the left jaw near the ear, shattering the bone to pieces. He was borne away past Lord Wellington, and though sinking from loss of blood, took off his hat and waved it, muttering, for he was unable to speak out, 'I could not die at a better moment.'

Notwithstanding his services and wounds, Napier had too good reason for complaining that his promotion was more than ordinarily slow. As time passed, his strong claims having been urged on the Prince Regent and the Duke of York, he was made lieutenant-colonel of the 102nd Regiment, and was for some time quartered with that corps in Bermuda. The place, as one could readily imagine, was not to his liking. "This island," he writes, "is beautiful to look at; but food, and all things but rogues, so scarce as to make a miserable quarter."

Years passed over, and Napier had returned to Europe, when the escape of Napoleon from Elba startled the Congress of Vienna. Drawn by the commotion of war, he hurried to Ghent, and there awaited the great impending battle, not called by duty, indeed, but seeking the contest as a volunteer. Napoleon's rapidity baffled all calculation; and Napier could only join in the storming of Cambray. On returning to England, he solicited active employment from the Duke of York; and, after cold denials and rough refusals, he was appointed an inspecting field-officer in the Ionian Islands, and advanced from that post to be Military Resident of Cephalonia. Ousted from that position by an unworthy rival, he came to England, settled at Bath, and was ten years without military employment. During that period, he devoted some time to literary labours; and while on that part of the subject, his biographer mentions a remarkable and somewhat wonderful fact.

"His principal work was a historical romance, suggested during his residence at Caen by the many vestiges of William the Conqueror in that country: the manuscript of this work has strangely disappeared; certainly it was never destroyed by him, yet has been vainly sought for since his death. Entitled 'Harold,' it was offered to Mr. Colburn for publication, and with the author's name would have been purchased, but Charles Napier would not accede to that condition, and demanded back his M.S. Mr. Colburn was, however, so tenacious of it, that only by a vigorous correspondence and many months' delay could it be recovered."

"Years afterwards, when Charles Napier was in India, Sir Bulwer Lytton's romance of the same title appeared with several remarkable resemblances to the manuscript work—such as the introduction of Harold's warfare against the Welsh; of a knight who plays a conspicuous part, though in a different way, from one of the same name in Napier's romance; a peculiar trial of skill between William and Harold in the play of their distinctive weapons, the spear and the long-bow; lastly and most curiously, the creation of a half-mad half-supernatural prophetess, called in both works the 'Vala,' who is related to Harold, and watches over his fortunes. The stories are indeed differently constructed, but it is no partial criticism to say, that if the lost manuscript shall be ever recovered for publication, it will be found in every biting dialogue, in variety of incident, and in fiery poetic description, as far above what may be called its rival, as that rival is below its author's best productions; and not the least so in the creation of the 'Vala.' But the soldier described heroic adventures with the like of which he had been familiar in early life, and forshadowed scenes of sanguinary battle, conquest and government, which he realised afterwards as a conqueror and ruler: scenes which Sir Bulwer could only guess at."

At length Napier found his dreary years of inaction terminate. When, in 1839, the state of this country became alarming, and the movements of the Chartist filled the Government with apprehension, he was summoned from his retreat, and appointed to command the troops in the Northern district of England, where disturbances were likely to take place. The commission was somewhat delicate, for the General sympathised, to a great extent, in politics with those whom he was sent to keep down. With a patrician's dislike of commerce and manufactures, he well loved those who literally earned their bread by the sweat of their brow—recognised the injustice of excluding the people from exercising the franchise—denounced the Game Laws as "villanous"—and had a thorough scorn for those among the rich who take advantage of their position to oppress the poor. Yet, on assuming his functions, Napier was not more inclined to show the Chartists any excessive indulgence than a Whig or a Tory would have been. "If the mob break the peace," said he, "I will break their heads," and, as he was just the man to keep his word, it was no doubt fortunate for themselves that they did not give him an opportunity. He knew the kind of people with whom he had to deal, and took his measures accordingly. On one occasion, when a great meeting was to be held, and danger was apprehended, he procured an introduction to a secret convocation of Chartist leaders:—

"When introduced, he addressed them in these words: 'I understand you are to have a great meeting on Kersal Moor, with a view to laying your grievances before Parliament: you are quite right to do so, and I shall take care that neither soldier nor policeman shall be within sight to disturb you. But meet peaceably, for if there is the least disturbance, I shall be amongst you, and, at the sacrifice of my life, if necessary, do my duty. Now go and do yours!' This firmness and decision prevented any disturbance."

With regard to those "ulterior objects" which the Chartist leaders were supposed to have in view, Napier frankly expresses himself:—

"Let us suppose the whole people wanted and could force a republic. What would result? A desperate struggle between the manufacturing and landed interests, ending in a civil war, to be decided finally by a military chief, who would not be fool enough to wear a hat with a crown on his hand. Nor such a rogue either; for what patriotic man would let his country be governed by dozens of squabbling republican fools, when his own good sense and single will could rule and guide her aright? This is foreign to the subject, but speaking of the means to oppose attempts to make England a republic, I cannot help a glance at what our state would be if they were successful."

While in the north of England, in 1841, Napier was offered a place on the Indian staff; and, though then in his fifty-ninth year, he accepted the appointment, and soon after entered upon that career which resulted in the conquest of Scinde. It is interesting to read how, on the 31st of March, 1843, the victor thus gives vent to his feelings:—

"March 31st.—Nineteen long letters from Lord Ellenborough! He has made me Governor of Scinde, with additional pay; and he has ordered the captured guns to be cast into a triumphal column, with our names. I wish he would let me go back to my wife and girls, it would be more to me than pay and glory and honours: eight months now away from them, and my wife's strange dream realised! This is glory! is it? Yes! Nine princes have surrendered their swords to me on fields of battle, and their kingdoms have been conquered by me and attached to my own country. I have received the government of the conquered province, and all honours are paid to me while living in mine enemy's capital! Well, all the glory that can be desired is mine, and I care so little for it that the moment I can all shall be resigned to live quietly with my wife and girls: no honour or riches repays me for absence from them. Otherwise, this sort of life is life to me, is agreeable, as it may enable me to do good to these poor people. Oh! if I can do one good thing to serve them where so much blood has been shed in acrued war, I shall be happy. May I never see another shot fired! horrid, horrid war! Yet how it wins upon and hardens one when in command! No young man can resist the temptation—I defy him; but thirty and sixty are different."

"The wife's dream, or vision, was this: While living at Caen, a vivid one showed her that he would be rich and powerful, and have a great name! and that the scene of his aggrandisement would be India!"

The second volume leaves Sir Charles ruling with wisdom the country which he had won with so much valour, and the public will doubtless look with eagerness for the conclusion of a work so interesting. The gallant and gifted biographer will have to relate how, after returning from the scene of his triumphs, Napier was at a dismal period called upon to save that Indian empire, to the grandeur of which his genius had contributed; how he returned, old and time-worn, to draw his latest breath in the country of his birth; and how, "when his hour for the narrow resting-place struck, sixty thousand voluntary attendants, with a solemn reverence more impressive than the most elaborate pomp, displayed their veneration for a hero."

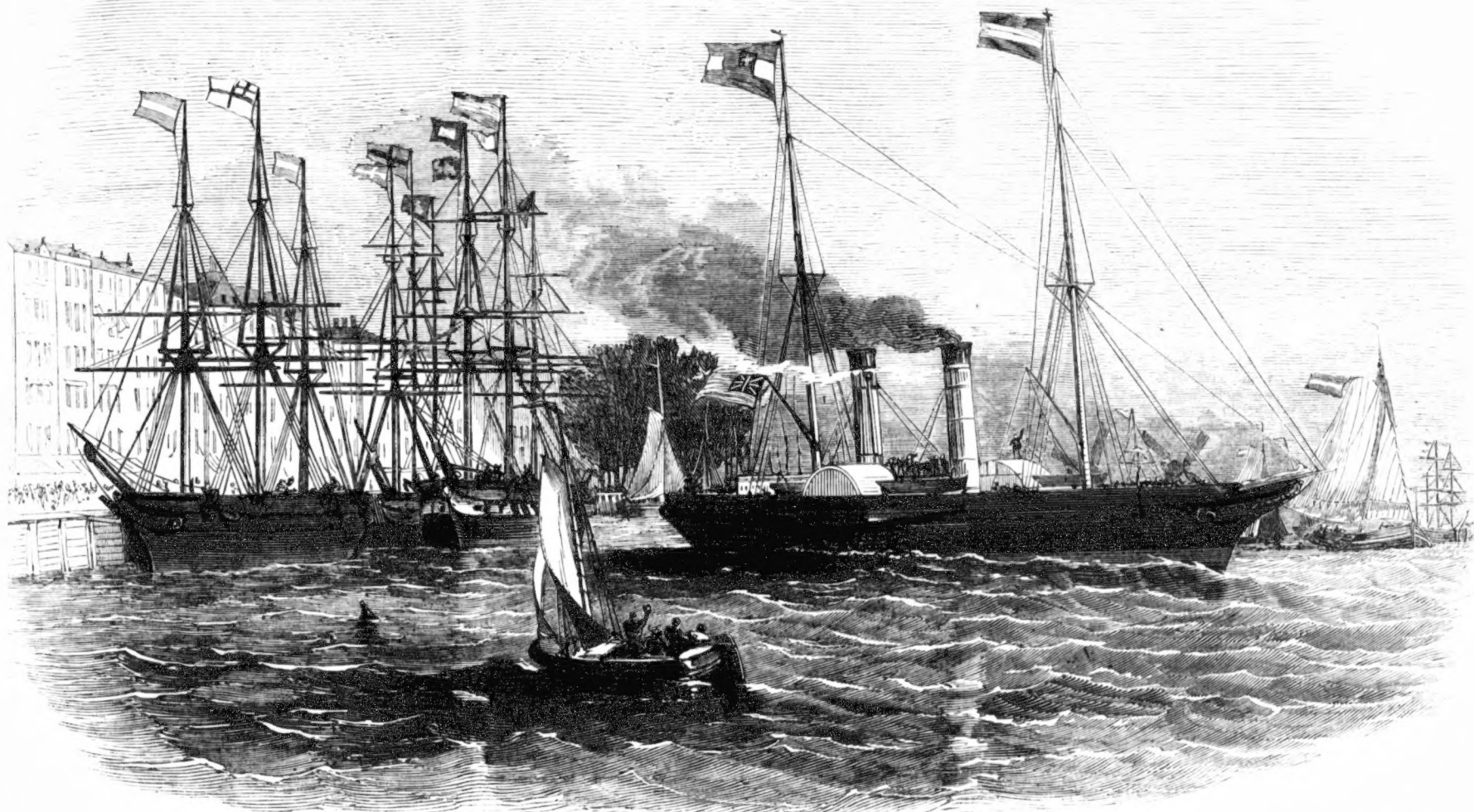
FERUKH KHAN, THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR.

Now that the disputes of the English Government with the Persian have been settled on an amicable basis, no slight degree of interest attaches to the diplomatic personage, who, on Tuesday, signed the treaty of peace. Several envoys from the Persian state have, in the course of the present century, been received at the Court of the Tuileries; but none of them have come on missions so important as the subject of our portrait on the next page.

Ferukh Khan is a man of forty, or thereabouts, with a slight frame, swarthy complexion, a black beard, dark eyes, which are very expressive, and manners which are very pleasing. He wears the Astrakhan head-dress, and a robe of light-coloured silk trimmed with fur. Around his neck he wears a likeness of the Shah set in diamonds.



FERUKH KHAN, THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE COURT OF FRANCE.—(COPIED FROM A PERSIAN MINIATURE.)



EXPERIMENTAL TRIP BY THE NEW CONTINENTAL ROUTE: THE "LONDON" LEAVING ROTTERDAM.

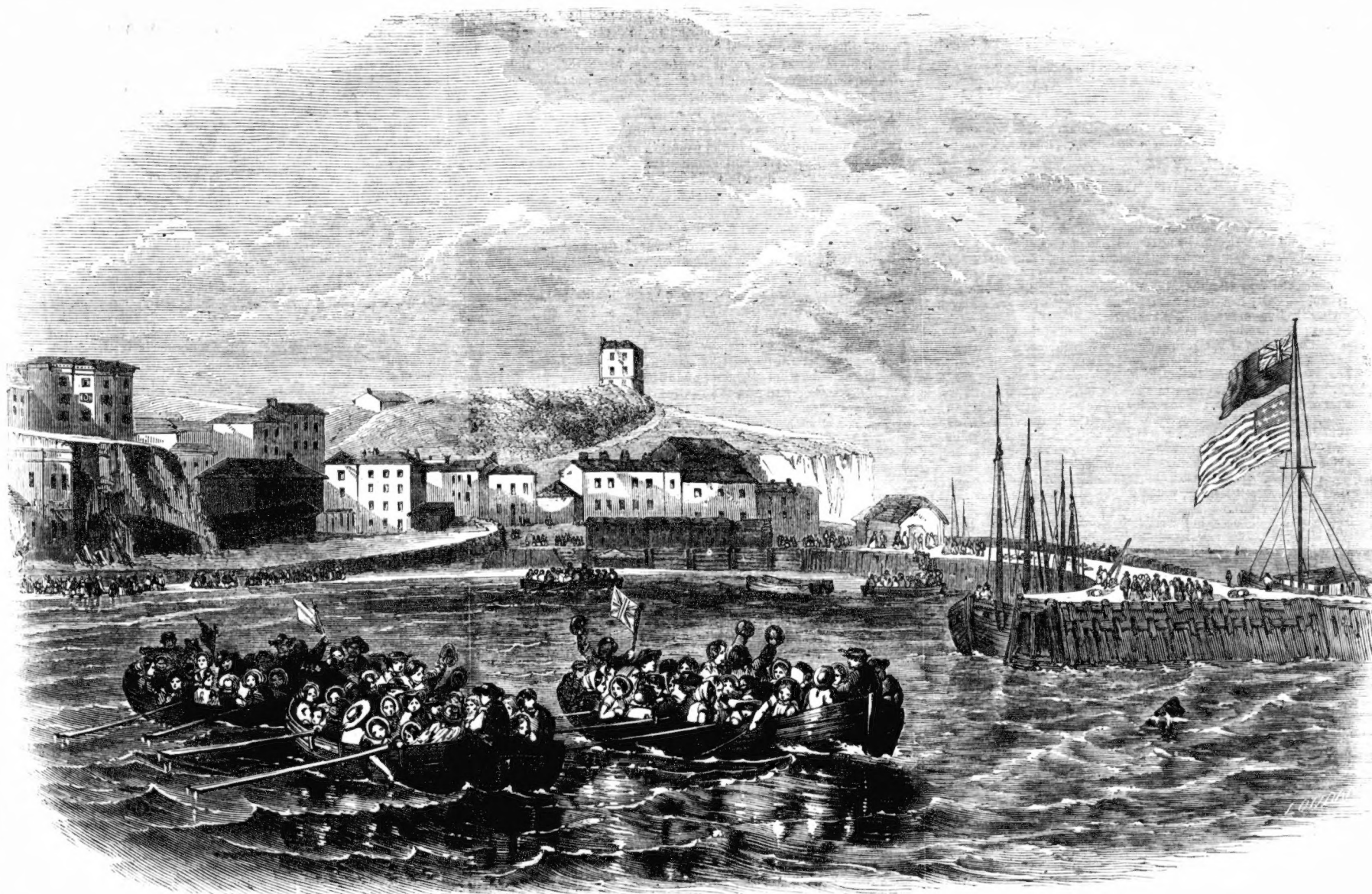
NEW ROUTE TO THE CONTINENT.

HARWICH, once one of the most important harbours upon our eastern coast, has long declined from its ancient importance. Why it has sunk so very low, it would perhaps be difficult to say; its being a close borough, and having possibly depended for support on other influences beyond the fair exertions of its own inhabitants, may have done much, and the short

sea route to the continent *via* Dover and Ostend has done much more. But, whatever the cause, the fact remains that Harwich, as an outlet to the Continent, has utterly declined in public estimation. Attempts have been made to re-establish the old line without success. Another effort in the same direction is about to be made; and the London, Harwich, and Continental Steam Packet Company has been formed for the purpose, and

to press upon the notice of the public the advantages which Harwich is said to possess, as affording the shortest route to the Continent, especially to Berlin, Vienna, and Trieste.

With this end in view, a number of the directors and others interested in the success of the scheme, took an experimental trip to Rotterdam *via* Harwich, in order to go over the ground, or rather the water, and adjust



SHROVE TUESDAY AT BROADSTAIRS.

matters finally on the other side of the Channel. A special train was provided at Shoreditch to convey the party to Harwich. The distance from London to Harwich was accomplished easily within two hours. The *London*—a steamer belonging to the Harwich and Dieppe line—was retained for the passage across. She is a very fine boat, fitted up like a yacht, with ample passenger accommodation, a light draught of water, and great speed; dry even in a cross sea, and steady as a house. As she was fixed to start at six a.m. on the following morning, there were not wanting those who, under the shallow pretence of gratifying their nautical propensities, went at once on board, in the hope, as sailors say, of "resting their eyelids" till she was well to sea. But in this they were lamentably deceived. Hotel accommodation was provided on shore, and such as went on board had to extemporise most impracticable beds from railway rugs and similar crude materials.

The appointed hour arrived, but the *London*, nevertheless, did not start. A thick white mist, something between a fog and a shower, hung heavily over land and sea, concealing objects even close at hand, and forming an impenetrable barrier to a fast passage as a wall. But it was evidently only a temporary obstacle, so a short delay was determined on, and at nine o'clock, the weather having cleared, the route to Holland was continued under the most favourable auspices. The sea was like a mirror, and the *London* sped her course across it at the rate of twelve knots an hour. Passengers were congratulating themselves on being soon at their journey's end, when, as the vessel neared the damp mist which denoted the approach to the Dutch coast, the old pilot, from out his accumulation of overcoats, hazarded discouraging conjectures as to the depth of water on the Brill Sands. Once unhappily combated in that opinion, it immediately became his creed. Remonstrance or entreaty was futile. Pilots are more imperative than either kings or rhymes, and so the *London* was forthwith anchored at about a mile from the Brill, and some twenty or thereabouts from Rotterdam.

Early on Sunday, however, the Sand was crossed, and in another hour he vessel was well up the Maas. Rotterdam was gained at twelve o'clock, and the secretary for the company immediately started on his mission to Berlin, leaving the general visitors to amuse themselves after the usual manner. On Monday evening the secretary quitted Berlin at six o'clock, and travelling, as we were informed, the last stage from Oberhausen per special train, arrived at Rotterdam on Tuesday morning at 10.30, and at eleven o'clock the *London* started on her return home. Again, unfortunately, there was but shallow water either in the river or on the Brill, which of course necessitated almost half speed; but before one o'clock the *London* was well clear of both, stretching forward rapidly over a sea without even a ripple to break its glassy surface. Till near five in the evening the water flew from under her at the rate of more than twelve knots an hour; but as the night fell, an easy, smooth, monotonous swell arose, which made the good ship "lively," though its effect upon one or two of the passengers was by no means similar; and soon after ten on Tuesday night the harbour of Harwich was fairly gained.

The special train up from Harwich made a smart passage of little more than two hours, so that the secretary accomplished his through journey from Berlin to London in 32 hours. The land route by which the company propose to effect such changes in the speed of continental travelling is to reach Berlin by the Dutch Rhinish line to Oberhausen, and so to avoid the curve made by the present Belgian route and its passage of the Rhine at Cologne. By this a saving of about 100 miles is effected. The proposed communication to Vienna and Trieste is by the same line as far as Oberhausen, and so on by Cassel, Leipzig, Dresden, Prague, and Vienna—a distance in all of 1,099 miles; and the company hope to be able to achieve the whole line from London to Trieste—a distance of 1,270 miles—in from 42 to 44 hours. The saving of distance which the Harwich Company effect on the whole route is 300 miles in comparison with that by Dover and Ostend; but the company assert themselves capable of saving just half the time at present occupied on the route. We can only hope that this anticipation will be realised; though it is scarcely necessary to accomplish so much in order to do great things for Harwich, and at the same time confer a benefit upon the travelling public.

SHROVE TUESDAY AT BROADSTAIRS.

THIS quiet little watering-place, which has recently been rendered so famous by the gallantry and daring of its boatmen, who rescued the crew of the *Northern Belle*, witnesses every year on this day a very interesting scene.

Shrove Tuesday at Broadstairs is a sort of *fête* day, and is celebrated in the following manner:—

The pier and the harbour are given up to the children of the place; and on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., some three hundred and fifty were congregated within the precincts of these localities. The little boys, who are born boatmen, rowed the little girls out of the bay and round "the Needles." None but those who witness those little fellows handle their oars, and pull out against a fresh breeze and a flowing tide, can credit the power, skill, and dexterity they possess.

Three good-sized boats are literally crowded with children, ranging from four to twelve years of age. While the boys are pulling, the girls are singing merrily,

"Hurrah! for the land of the free!"

There is not the least fear of an accident. Those little boys go out in much rougher weather, practising; and if one of those little girls were to fall overboard, one of the boys would instantly plunge into the water and rescue her, for they are all strong swimmers, like their fathers. They are the Castles, the Crouches, the Millers, Hillers, and Pettits of the coming age; and some day they will rival the fame of their sires and grandfathers, in saving the lives of shipwrecked mariners.

Our sketch represents Broadstairs from the head of the pier. The boat beneath the flagstaff is the renowned *Mary White*, ready for service at a second's warning.

The American flag beneath the British ensign, is the flag of the *Northern Belle*. It was on the 23rd inst. given by Mr. John Lang (to whom it was presented by the crews of the *Mary White* and *Culmer White*), to Mr. Jarman, the Harbour Master, in trust for the boatmen in perpetuity. That honourable trophy, which was hoisted amidst the acclamation of the juvenile multitude, will only be exhibited on particular and fitting occasions.

The house standing alone on the hill overlooking the pier and the cliffs, is "Bleak House," so called from the circumstance that, in that house, Mr. Charles Dickens wrote a novel, which will help to immortalise his name in the annals of literature.

In one of the tall houses to the right, the third house, adjoining Bullard's Family Hotel, Mr. Dickens wrote "David Copperfield," and several other of his world-renowned works.

If we take Broadstairs, "all in all," it is a very curious place. It is a little behind the world, perhaps, but it is none the worse for that. Its primitiveness lends to it a peculiar charm. "Broadstairs does not want a stone pier." It is contented with the old wooden structure, which at a distance—and especially on a moonlight night—resembles the hull of a line of battle-ship. The sea, in stormy weather, breaks "clean over it;" but the old pier stands as firm as a rock. Nor does Broadstairs want a harbour large enough to admit steamers and vessels of considerable size. So long as small colliers can come in to supply Broadstairs with coals, Broadstairs is perfectly satisfied. Broadstairs looks with unqualified admiration on its neighbours, Ramsgate and Margate; but Broadstairs is not ambitious of keeping pace with them. Broadstairs does not even wish for a railroad—quiet, and humble-minded Broadstairs is "slow" enough to prefer Mr. Jell's fast omnibus. Five Broadstairs!

N.B.—Broadstairs has no police—and wants none.

THE BROADSTAIRS BOATMEN.—Mr. Croskey, the United States Consul at Southampton, has received from the Life-saving Benevolent Association, New York, a letter enclosing £45, to be distributed among the families of the nine men who perished in the lugger *Victory*, while endeavouring to rescue the crew of the American ship *Northern Belle*, wrecked near Ramsgate in the early part of January. The medal of the association will be sent to each of the men who eventually succeeded in saving the Americans, as soon as a correct list of names shall have been received at New York.

SPLENDID POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON.

(Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet).

TO BE ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," ON MARCH 21.

The Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" desire to announce to their Subscribers that they have now ready

A LARGE AND ELABORATELY-ENGRAVED MAP OF LONDON,

ON THE SCALE OF 3 INCHES TO THE MILE, With the Names of all the Streets distinctly shown, and with THE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW POSTAL DISTRICTS clearly defined. This Map, which is 2 feet 3 inches in depth by 3 feet in width, will be printed upon a sheet of paper the same size as the "Illustrated Times," and although it is an exact counterpart, not only in regard to size, but in point of minute finish, of the Map prepared by direction of the Postmaster-General for the use of the London and Provincial Post Offices, and which is sold to the public at 5s., it will be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times" at THE PRICE OF AN ORDINARY NUMBER OF THE PAPER, NAMELY, 2½D., a price which, even in these days of cheapness, is without a parallel.

Specimens are now in the hands of the trade; and the Map itself will be issued with the "Illustrated Times" for March 21st. The enormous demand which is certain to arise for an article which the recent Division of the Metropolis into Postal Districts has rendered indispensable to every letter-writer in the kingdom, makes it necessary that immediate orders should be given to the various Agents.

In the number of the "Illustrated Times" which will accompany the Map, will be commenced the publication of a Novel, entitled

THE BADDINGTON PEERAGE; BEING HIS LORDSHIP'S LIFE.

A STORY OF THE BEST AND THE WORST SOCIETY.

BY GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA,

(AUTHOR OF "A JOURNEY IN THE NORTH," IN DICKENS'S "HOUSEHOLD WORDS.")

This tale, which is of powerful interest, will have the advantage of being illustrated in its more striking scenes by the graphic pencil of HARLOT K. BROWN. One or more Chapters will be published weekly in the columns of the "Illustrated Times" until the whole is completed.

ENGRAVINGS AFTER PICTURES IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.

In the same number of the "Illustrated Times" will be published No. 1 of a series of

HIGHLY-FINISHED ENGRAVINGS ON A LARGE SCALE

after the CHOICEST PICTURES OF THE TURNER COLLECTION AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

These will be produced in the VERY HIGHEST STYLE OF WOOD ENGRAVING ART, and will be printed with the greatest care. The series will be continued from week to week until completed.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1857.

THE DEFEAT OF THE MINISTRY.

PARLIAMENT has condemned the proceedings in China. But this is not all. By that act Lord Palmerston's foreign policy generally receives the reprobation of the House of Commons. It is not a single question; for all the world knows that the Chinese proceedings exactly express the Premier's general style—slashing action, regardless of discretion or delay—a semi-theatrical "vigour," intended to catch the wilder kinds of popularity—a policy often very striking, but always very dangerous. The prestige of his Ministry is gone, and all parties must soon appeal to the country.

We are told that this has been achieved by faction and by unnatural combinations; but such is the constitution of England, that moral anomalies in politics must frequently occur. In England, it is perfectly true—what Dr. Arnold says of human affairs generally—that the contest never is between pure truth and pure error. Practically, we must be content to see a good achieved by the aid of power not wholly unalloyed with selfishness in its direction. If—as we most sincerely believe, and have elsewhere tried to show—the Government Chinese policy be improperly harsh, cruel, violent, and dangerous, we should be thankful for a condemnation of it by the House of Commons, whether partly "factionous" or not. But why is everything to be factions that is anti-Ministerial? A great body of the genius, the experience, and the renown of Parliament (representing an enormous power in the country) has united in this act, and is not to be settled by an epithet or two. A cause which unites in its support names like Russell, Cobden, Disraeli, and Gladstone, is above the reach of the waggonery of Bernal Osborne, or the petulance of the "Morning Post."

After such a defeat on a vital question, it is impossible that the Ministry can hold on. Its parliamentary weakness—in individuals capable of maintaining it in debate—has long been ludicrously obvious. Its Budget was tolerated rather than approved, and holds out no prospect of future financial ease to the country. Palmerston himself is old and ill, and scarcely fit for a life of such struggle as this state of things involves. But what is still more important, the Parliament itself is morally chaotic, and the country wants new grounds of hope and faith in its political affairs. Everything points to a dissolution as the natural termination of this anarchy; and to that (after the necessary delay to pass the Mutiny Bill, &c.) we confidently look forward.

The Premier has a great advantage in going to the country. He came well out of the Russian war, where so many failed, and, individually, few persons are more widely admired by the general population. It is not because he has been defeated that an honest journalist will refuse to admit this. But, for the life of us, we cannot see on what wide grounds he is to address the nation. Is it that he will thrash the Chinese? But if this were right, what enthusiasm could it excite, since it is so easy? Is it that he is a Reformer? No man is less so. He hates and ridicules reform, by instinct and by tradition. The kind of thing generally is alien from his talents and character. His foreign policy, as regards the Continent, presents no hope to Liberals, and to Conservatives is constantly alarming. Beginning with a Radical popularity, he has ended with an Austrian alliance. In short, he wants something sufficiently distinctive about him now to justify him in hoping a longer personal supremacy. During the war, his pluck, his supposed anti-Russian instincts, and the nature of the crisis, made him the man of the moment; but with the difficulty expires the dictatorship. England demands a man of views, with a social and domestic policy, and a good broad Ministry up to his own mark, and capable of useful work. The Viscount has used the spear well; but he is the very worst hand in the world at turning it into a pruning-hook.

Let electors, therefore, everywhere be preparing for work. A policy of foreign quiet and social amendment is what the country wants. The first of these objects will be hard to attain, and a pretty Chinese legacy will Lord Palmerston's successor come into; but the work must be done. Somebody must be sent to supersede the present functionaries,—somebody with power to end the crisis, without carrying out the Bowring policy,—somebody whom the Chinese will respect, while not looking on him with hatred. Of course that per-

sonage will find his job a hard one; and the very nature of the position will require him to be backed by a strong force; but, still, he will start from a vantage ground, as not having baptised his diplomacy in blood. While the present men have the business in hand, we can only expect indefinite slaughter.

Peace abroad, and economy and social improvement at home—these are what the country wants from its next Ministers and next Parliament. The statesman who is most definite in his plans for securing these objects, will carry the country with him. It is high time our politicians were speaking out.

TEMPERANCE AND BRICKBATS.

IT was long a standing reproach and scandal to Christendom that so bitter were the dissensions existing between the Greeks and the Latins worshipping in the Holy Places at Jerusalem; and to such a height of violence ran their animosities, that it became imperative, for the preservation of the peace and the prevention of bloodshed, for an armed guard of heathen Turks to be posted in the Christian temples; and Moslem cavasses had to prevent Romanists and Byzantines from cutting each other's throats at the Holy Sepulchre or breaking each other's heads at the Grotto of Bethlehem. Fighting grew at last to be quite a doctrinal point with the rival churches; the conclusion of Lent ushered in a species of ecclesiastical Donnybrook, mercenaries were enlisted by the theological combatants, and guests enjoying the hospitality of the different convents, were expected to pay for their board and lodging in good hard knocks against the foe. There is a capital story told by Mr. Kingslake, in "Eothen," of an English traveller who was a guest at one of the Greek convents at Jerusalem, and who, contenting himself with being a mere spectator of a religious "faction fight," was bitterly reproached for his apathy by an excited monk who came striding out of the *melle*. "You eat our bread," said this zealous son of the Eastern Church; "you drink our wine; and—(we think he said 'something') it—when Easter Saturday comes, you don't fight for us."

The zealous Scotch gentlemen who have recently been cracking each other's skulls, pelting each other with stones and brickbats, and bespattering each other with mud, both literally and figuratively, in her Majesty's good town (we ought, perhaps, to say "gude town") of Edinburgh—all on the great Temperance Question, and the relative expediency of the enactment of the Maine Liquor Law or the continuance of toddy as an institution, and the sempiternal efflorescence of the "peck o' maut" which the immortal Willie brewed—remind us with rather humiliating force of the Papists' and Patriarchists' Hierosolymian squabbles. It is even a more humiliating position for the Press to be obliged to assume the rôle of the Mussulman soldiery, and with fixed bayonets (or pens) keep guard, and interpose when the absurd strife between the believers in Father Matthew and Mr. John B. Gough, and the adherents of Sir John Barleycorn and the Bacchus way of thinking generally, grows too fast and too furious.

An entire column of the "Times" was recently engrossed by the report of some most absurd, mischievous, and disgraceful riots, in which the Edinburghers have been indulging on the vexed question of temperance or toddy. There is, it appears, in "Auld Reekie" (we are rapidly using up our stock of journalist's Scotch) a worshipful fraternity, rejoicing in the name of the Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society. This E. T. A. S. (to be brief) invited a certain learned Professor of Physic in Edinburgh University, one Doctor Laycock, to deliver unto them two lectures on the "Physiology of Drunkenness—its Causes and Remedies," it being known that Dr. Laycock had made the subject one of special study, both in its social and physiological bearings. The honest Total Abstinence gentlemen doubtless indulged in the pleasant anticipation of having their respectable "lugs" tickled by some good-sound Total Abstinence "cracks" from the Professor of Physic; they looked forward to the utter overthrow and slaying of that debosched catf, Sir John Barleycorn. But, alas! how were they deceived! Doctor Laycock, in his very first lecture, justified what the Bishop of Oxford is said to have said of Mr. Disraeli's first ministerial acknowledgment of the advantages of Free Trade. The man they had hired to curse their enemies blessed them! The Professor indicated "strong anti-suppression" views; he expressed his preference of moral suasion to legal coercion as a remedy for the evils of drunkenness; and he "enlarged at great length on the evils of espionage, falsehood, perjury, evasion, smuggling, &c., necessarily arising from the system of oppression." He deprecated the introduction of the Maine Law; and he wound up by the startling expression of a belief that since the celebrated Forbes Mackenzie Sunday Act had come into operation, "perjury and prevarication had increased fivefold in Edinburgh!"

We hope we shall not be under the imputation of using language unduly familiar, when we state that this unexpected *dénouement* of a temperance "oration" led to a "row." It was a row, *pur et simple*. Mr. Duncan McLaren, who, it appears is the Corypheus, or the Gamahel, or the Boanerges, or the somebody of the Temperance Movement in Scotland, plunged head over heels in the quarrel, quite *à la* Donnybrook, and impetuously demanded some one (metaphorically) to "tread on the tail" of his plaid. The "Rev. A. Wallace" made an "ungracious" speech, in which he talked of Doctor Laycock "going the whole hog" in the way of temperance; a method of progress which the anti-temperance lecturer declined to follow; but the "entire animal" was afterwards "gone" by two more doctors—Dr. Lees, of the United Kingdom Alliance, and Dr. McCulloch, of Dumfries. This latter sage undertook to deliver a lecture, in which he promised to "dissect Dr. Laycock" upon which, the university issued a counter-announcement, and invited all their body to attend the lecture for the purpose of "dissecting Dr. McCulloch." So all the doctors disagreed, and dissected each other accordingly. Tumultuous and uproarious scenes followed. The chairman, lecturer, and members of the board were received with "tremendous hooting;" elderly gentlemen stood up on their seats to expostulate; bottles and glasses were produced in the gallery, and convivial nods of "Here's to you," tantalsed the sober gentlemen on the platform. The students returned to the University chanting, "Auld Lang Syne," in full chorus, taking, we have no doubt, numerous "cups of kindness" on the way.

All this was followed by rows yet more serious. Bonfires were made of obnoxious newspapers. The college gates were closed by orders from the magistrates. Noisy demonstrations were made. Mischievous lads began to throw stones. The tradesmen put up their shutters. One riot was "put a stop to by the courageous interposition of a lady, whose presence proved more efficacious in restoring order than the interposition of the police." Who this lady could have been we are quite unable to say; but she must either have claimed kindred with Thomas Moore's heroine, whose smile

"Lighted her safely through the green isle,"

or she must have been the immortal, but mythical, Mrs. Harris. After this the students and the police fell to fighting; and the students called the police "ragabosh," and knocked them down; and the police not only returned the compliment, but also locked them up. Then Dr. Laycock made speeches, and a Mr. Hope made speeches; and the desirable consummation of this very pretty quarrel was of course that a "mischievously-disposed rabble," which, towards night, "numbered several thousands," came out of their holes and corners in the peculiarly filthy and infamous slums of Edinburgh; gathered round the college; and enunciated their views on temperance by discharging volleys of stones at the police, who, with the high constables, charged upon them, and only succeeded in restoring tranquillity when several rioters had been apprehended, and many gentlemen severely cut and bruised.

This is really a highly gratifying state of things to take place in the middle of the nineteenth century, and in the Modern Athens! There is a cant phrase called "ventilating" a subject, and the only way to "ventilate" the Temperance Question would appear to be to smash the windows of the lecture hall, and let daylight through the heads of the spectators. For shame! Great need there is, truly, to bolster up cock-and-bull stories of "Railways and Revolvers," when, nearer home, within a twenty hours' ride of Euston Square, we cannot argue a social question without mobbing and rioting, and stone-throwing and police-fighting.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY have returned to Windsor. Last week Majesty honoured the Princess's Theatre and the Haymarket Theatre with His presence.

THE CORPORATION has passed its annual petition to Parliament for seating Ben Rotherham.

IN COMPENSATION TO TRAVELLERS injured on the Eastern Counties line, the Company expended during the last six months £547 2s. 9d. In the previous year the amount expended under this head was upwards of £9,000.

SEPTANT WILKINS died at his chambers, King's Bench Walk, Temple, on Wednesday.

THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF BIRMINGHAM, in recognition of the services rendered to all classes by Mr. Sheepshanks in his gift of pictures to the city, and in gratitude for his expressed desire that they should be useful to the poor, have passed a vote of thanks, which has been engrossed and transmitted to Mr. Sheepshanks, in the poetical enclosure of an oak box.

AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY is now open in Paris, and a not inconsiderable number of foreigners have contributed to it. We hear that the production of the English exhibitors challenge comparison with the best.

THE SUBJECT OF THE SCOTTISH FRANCHISE will be brought before the House of Commons at an early period of the session. Mr. Laing, M.P. for the West of Scotland, has promised to introduce the bill, which will be supported by Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Cobden, and other leading reformers.

PROFESSOR OWEN commenced on Thursday week, a series of twelve popular lectures on Paleontology, at the Museum of Practical Geology. The price of admission to the series is merely nominal, and we learn that gratis tickets are not refused to any respectable applicant.

A FRENCH TRANSLATION OF Dr. Lardner's "Museum of Science and Arts" is advertised at Paris, to appear in parts at three sous each.

PARIS is shortly to have two Mahometan Professors' chairs. The Turkish Government is going to send there two of its most distinguished scholars—Hassan Effendi and Suleiman Effendi, who intend to lecture publicly, the first on the Arabian and Persian languages for Mahometans, and the latter on the Turkish language for Christians. Singular chairs, it is asserted, will be established by order of the Sultan at London, Vienna, and Brussels.

THE ASSIZES OF THE NORTH have sentenced a man to hard labour for life for throwing his wife down a quarry because she refused to let him sell a field. The poor woman was recovered, much hurt.

THE EARL OF MONTAGUE was interred on Thursday week, at Worsley, near Manchester, without ostentation. Many thousand persons assembled to witness the ceremony.

A PROJECT is on foot for establishing a telegraph to India in continuation of the telegraph decided upon by the English Government for the Mediterranean, and which is to terminate at Alexandria. The proposal is to lay a number of wires across Egypt and down the Red Sea to Aden, and then down the south coast of Arabia to Kurrachee, to which the Indian telegraph extends.

A WOMAN LIVING AT TUNIS ceded her property for a lifetime, but afterwards regretted having done so, on account of her heirs. A lawyer advised her that the deed could not be disturbed unless she died within forty days. Shortly afterwards she committed suicide, and the deed was declared null.

A MEETING IN FAVOUR OF VOTE BY BALLOT was held at Manchester on Wednesday week.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE EFFORTS OF SCHAMYL AND HIS SONS, the Russians have with the hatchet, cut a way through the forest of Manoutpou, which is considered as one of the greatest obstacles to the conquest of the territory.

THE KING OF NAPLES, according to gossip, had a dream lately, to the effect that he would be relieved from his present embarrassments if he would order thirteen Pontifical masses; accordingly, three have already been said by a bishop.

EARL FITZGERALD is suffering severely from injuries occasioned by a fall from his horse while hunting in Berkeley Vale, Gloucestershire.

THE WEAVING FACTORY OF ALEXANDER MARTIN AND CO., near Glasgow, has been destroyed by fire; the damage is estimated at £20,000.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC LIKENESS OF MILANO is now being sold in Naples pretty extensively. Such a fact requires little comment.

THE SUM OF £304,358 was paid by Government last year for the redemption of hereditary pensions.

THE REV. MR. SPURGEON is suffering from an affection of the chest or throat, which considerably impairs his oratorical powers.

SIR JOHN McNEILL has accepted the office of Honorary President of the Associated Societies of the University of Edinburgh, in the room of Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

THE PRINCESS BARYATINSKI, the wife of the Russian Commander in the Caucasus, has recently embraced the Roman Catholic faith at Rome.

A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS employed in the trigonometrical survey of the United Kingdom are about to be discharged.

THE EMPEROR STRAN-YACHI, to be presented to the Emperor of Japan, is ordered to be completed with despatch, so as to admit of her being forwarded to her destination during the latter part of the present month.

A MEETING of the subscribers to, and friends interested in, the erection of a monument to Sir John Franklin, will be held at Lincoln, on the 12th, to determine upon the monument to be erected. The sums already subscribed amount to £500; but a great number of the country gentry refuse to subscribe until they know in what shape the monument is to be erected.

FOUR HOUSES IN BISHOPSGATE STREET WERE BURNT LAST WEEK. The total loss amounted to £2,000.

THE CASUAL WARD OF THE WEST OF LONDON UNION, which was visited by the Lord Mayor last week, is to be placed under new regulations.

COMMANDER SIR WILLIAM WISEMAN was walking the deck of H.M.'s steamer *Penelope*, during the voyage to Algiers Bay, when one of the men, who had been punished for insubordination, struck at him with a knife. Sir William caught the weapon by the blade, and escaped with a gash in his hand.

WHILE THE REV. CANON PARKINSON was preaching in the Cathedral Church, at Manchester, on Sunday, a sudden attack of illness obliged him to close his discourse rather abruptly. The attack was pronounced to be of a paralytic character, but there is reason to hope that the Rev. Gentleman will recover.

THE DEATH OF THEODORE BALSCH, Kaimakan of Moldavia, is announced to have taken place at Jassy on Sunday.

THE SUSPENSION OF MESSRS. SWATNE AND BOVILL, merchants and patentees of various kinds of machinery, is announced. The amount of their liabilities has not been ascertained, but it is believed to be very large—probably over £100,000.

M. SOYER had an interview with the Emperor of the French at the Tuileries on Saturday, and submitted to his Majesty a model of his new bivouac-stove.

AT THE ELECTION OF A LORD RECTOR for Marischal College and University, Aberdeen, on Monday, two nations voted for Mr. Layard and two for Lord Elgin. The votes being equal, and the choice falling to the Senate, that body agreed to leave it to Mr. Layard himself.

SIR MORTON Peto has received an invitation from the Emperor of the French to proceed to Algeria with the view to the construction of a railway in that colony. The line, which is to commence at Constantine, is to be a hundred miles long.

M. WINTERHALTER has just finished a portrait of the Prince Imperial, which will appear at the next Paris Exhibition.

VROGER, brother of the assassin, died at Paris on Saturday of a chronic disease.

THE COMPLICATED STATE OF ACCOUNTS between the Grand Central Railway and M. de Morry, which has frequently been spoken of since the departure of the latter for St. Petersburg, has been a special subject of conversation at the Paris Bourse lately.

THE GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS have chartered the *Persio* to leave Plymouth for Geelong on the 9th of April next, with emigrants, at 14 guineas per head, and the *Alfred*, to leave Birkenhead for Sydney on the 13th of April next, with emigrants, at £14 0s. 2d. per head.

"LE NOB" promises a golden era to Europe, in case Lord Palmerston be ejected from the Government of England.

THE REV. G. R. GLEIG has ceased to be the Inspector of Military Schools and becomes the Director thereof, which does not involve his travelling about the country. The appointment of inspector is to be conferred on a colonel in the army.

AN ATROCIOUS CRUELTY, committed by a youth named Kenyon, was most inadequately punished at the Westminster Petty Sessions lately. Kenyon, with another person, had poured turpentine over a dog, and then set fire to it. The animal was completely roasted; and the young man was fined 40s.

LORD EBRINGTON has presented seven massive silver cups to Harrow School, as prizes for superiority in athletic games.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE OF RUSSIA in the Caspian Sea, according to the latest returns from Astrakhan, consists of 133 vessels of different sizes, employing crews to the number of 1,950 men.

AN INCENDIARY set fire to some farm produce at Pontefract a few days ago. Seven stacks were destroyed.

A LADY OF ECCENTRIC HABITS was found dead in her house at Walworth lately. Her body was lying on three chairs. Under her head was found a little dirty bag, containing £4 or £5 in gold and six £5 notes. She was clothed in rags, held together by a countless multitude of pins, though plenty of good clothes were found in the house.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE vexed question as to the resuscitation of Covent Garden Theatre as the home of the lyrical drama, is at length set at rest. The proprietors of the Piazza Hotel, whose lease is nearly expired, have received notice to quit, and there is not the least doubt that a long lease on exceedingly advantageous terms has been granted by the Duke of Bedford to Mr. Gye, not only of the original site of the theatre, but of ground immediately adjoining, and covering altogether not less than an acre in extent. The building is to be ready for the season of 1858; and attached to the opera-house is to be a covered glass arcade, to be used as a flower-bazaar, modelled in fact upon the plan of the *Marché aux Fleurs*, in Paris.

The devotees of music have promise of a brilliant season in store for them. On Easter Tuesday, Mr. Gye opens Drury Lane, and to him return all those stars whose brilliancy filled the little Lyceum last spring. Gysi, of course, comes back, having forgotten all about that ridiculous notion of retirement—Mario, Formes, and Lablache. The prospects of her Majesty's Theatre are clearer than they were this time last year, as there seems to be but little doubt of Mr. Lumley's re-opening. He has re-engaged Mlle. Paganini, and it is said that Mlle. Johanna Wagner also returns to him. She will have much to do to retrieve her lost prestige, as, too much prepossessed, she last year fell lamentably short of the expectations that had been formed of her. New vocalists, favourably spoken of, who are engaged at her Majesty's, are Mlle. Marietta Spezia, a soprano, and Signor Giuglini, a tenor, of Italian repute.

Matinées and *soirées musicales* will also this season be enriched by the presence of Herr Joachim, the celebrated violinist, who for several years has been absent from London, and Herr Ernst. The *début*, as a singer, of Mlle. Victorine Basse, the daughter of the celebrated composer, is also announced.

Idlers in the Piccadilly and Regent Street neighbourhoods will have noticed much pulling down and heavy clouds of brick-dust in George Court and Little Vine Street. These attractions have been caused by the commencement of the new St. James's Music Hall, the foundations for which are about to be laid. The building will comprise three halls, the largest of which will be 134 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 60 feet high, with a smaller hall on either side. The architect is Mr. Owen Jones; Messrs. Chappell, Mr. Sams, and others of the principal music houses at the West End, are the *entrepreneurs*; and it is calculated that the hall will be ready in time for the second Philharmonic Concert, which is announced to be given there. That the building will so soon be completed, is, however, very much to be doubted.

The time for the delivery of Mr. W. H. Russell's lectures is not yet decided upon. The *lecture* will be Willis's Rooms, in the first instance, and it is rumoured that the high price of two guineas for the set of three lectures will be the charge.

Some few years ago a gentleman named Shakespeare, who claims to be a lineal descendant of the poet, gave a sum of £2,500 for the purpose of purchasing the tenements adjoining the apocryphal house at Stratford-on-Avon. These buildings have now been cleared away, and a joint meeting of the trustees of the fund subscribed by the nation and the trustees of the new fund has been called, to decide how the house is to be preserved and the spare ground employed.

The 15th, 17th, and 19th of June, have been fixed as the days for the three performances of the grand Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace. These dates have received the approval of her Majesty, who has intimated her intention of being present at the celebration. The oratorios which it is intended to perform are the "Messiah," "Judith Maccabæus," and "Israel in Egypt."

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE second of the "Scenes of Clerical Life" is given in "Blackwood" for this month, under the title of "Mr. Gilfil's Love Story." It is, however, very far behind the first, lacking both the interest and the good writing which characterised "The Sad Fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton." The "Athelings" drags its slow length along—a dull family story, with long-winded conversations and dreary platitudes. There is a good, though caustic, review of Barry Cornwall's "Poems and Dramatic Pieces," and a capital "lay" on a Greek vase, called "The Conquest of Bælus." The second of the series of papers, "Letters from a Lighthouse," concludes the number.

The "Dublin University" opens with an account of "The Castle of Dublin," with its historical and antiquarian associations, and the writer takes frequent though brief glances at the legendary lore pertaining to his subject. The history is likely to run through many chapters, as the first instalment, though running through thirteen pages, only brings us down to A.D. 1029. "A Winter Night's Tale," entitled "A Masque for Music," is a pleasant bit of rhythmical description of old Saxon domestic life, by Jonathan Freke Slingsby, under which quaint *nom de plume* the initiated will recognise Dr. Waller, the Editor of the "Dublin." The other articles are scarcely so interesting as usual. There is a paper called "Clerical Life in Ireland," founded on a memoir of the Rev. Godfrey Massy, an Irish clergyman who lived at the commencement of the present century. The two serial stories, "The Fortunes of Glencore," and "John Twill-r" are continued, and there are reviews of Boswell's Letters, J. H. Newman's Works on University Education, and the Memoirs of Frederick Perthes, which last, by the way, formed the subject of an article some time since in "Fraser." The commencement of a new story, called "Tutors of the Young Idea," by Mr. W. B. Jerrold, written with much spirit, and evincing great power of observation, concludes the number.

"Bentley's Miscellany" contains the continuation of Mr. Dudley Costello's novel "The Millionaire of Mincing Lane," a very pleasant, quaint, gossiping paper from Monkswood on "Ronard;" a review of M. Arsène Houssaye's "Voyages Humoristiques;" and two or three other articles of very inferior description.

The "Train" seems scarcely so good as usual this month, and yet if called upon to state in what particular, I could not give a good reason. Nearly all the articles in it are above average merit, but yet there seems a lack of that dash and spirit which have hitherto particularly characterised it. Mr. M. Davies's "University Recollections" are written in a light, pleasant style; Mr. Palgrave Simpson, in a story quaintly entitled "S.S.V.P.," shows an intimate acquaintance with queer old Continental cities and considerable power of description; in his treatment of Dr. Doddridge's "Life of Colonel Gardiner," Mr. Draper writes with taste and care; and Mr. Robert Brough's translations from Victor Hugo's ballads, whether regarded as close translations of the French poet or stories reliant on their own rhythm and metre, are excellent; moreover, a better ghost story than Mr. Friswell's "Oxford Ghost," with its quaint, Bunyan-like moral, is not often met with. So, I suppose I am hypercritical, although the dissatisfied feeling still remains. A series of biographical and critical papers, with portraits, is, I see, announced for publication in the "Train," to commence next month with Mr. W. H. Russell, the "Times" correspondent.

Nor does "Tait" seem up to the mark. There are too many continuations in it, and too many fragmentary papers. It is impossible for the reader to carry in his head all the plots and *dramatis personæ* of three such stories as "The Romance of Valencia," "The Roads through the World," and the "Cosmopolite's Life;" while "Tangled Talk" is quite enough in the style of a deceased literary man's common-place book, without our being bored by "Gleanings and Fragments." Moreover, the author of "Broken Memories," usually so clever, this month tells a thoroughly melodramatic "Reynold's Miscellany" style of story; while the "Ballads by Bon Gaultier's Grandsons," meant to be imitations of well-known poets, have not the slightest resemblance to their originals. Two or three little poems and a clever paper on Schiller are the best things in the number.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

DRURY LANE—LYCEUM—SURREY.

MR. AND MRS. KEELEY returning to Drury Lane, and no modern author contributing a new piece which it suited either the taste or the terms of the lessee to accept, Morton's old comedy of "A Cure for the Heartache" was revived for the occasion, not in its pristine glory, but compressed into three acts. The revival had the merit of introducing the three principal actors of the establishment, and but little other. Mr. Keeley's delineation of Old Rapid, the easy-going, somnolent, kind-hearted

tradesman, was admirable and life-like, as are all the attempts of this excellent actor; Mr. Charles Mathews was as volatile, bustling, eccentric, and amusing in Young Rapid, as he always is; but in the little touches of sentiment, in his declaration of love for instance, in the confession of his "heart-ache," he utterly lacks expression, and his digestion might be out of order, instead of his heart, from anything the audience can judge. The most extraordinary impersonation throughout the whole piece was Mrs. Keeley's Frank Outlands, and however much one is inclined to be annoyed at the adoption of male costume by ladies, it is impossible to deny the excellence of this portraiture, or to regret its assumption by the actress. The other parts are creditably played by Mr. Tilbury, Miss Oliver, and Miss Cleveland. The pantomime at Drury Lane has outlived its brethren, and will doubtless run until the end of the dramatic season.

At the Lyceum was produced on Monday night, the third version of Madame Girardin's "Une Femme qui deteste son Mari," this time from the pen of Mr. Stirling Coyne. The adapter, who calls his piece "Angel or Devil," has done his work very successfully, not departing from the Robespierre period as laid down in the original, and the characters are well played by Mr. and Mrs. Dillon, Mr. Toole, and Mr. Barrett. The principal male character, which is rather elaborated from the original by Mr. Coyne, was originally written for Mr. Leigh Murray, but this gentleman has been prevented by severe illness from resuming his professional duties.

At the Surrey Mr. Coyne has also made a hit, as the adapter of "Les Pauvres de Paris," under the title of "Fraud and its Victims."

I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing Sir William Don, who was announced to appear at the Marylebone, on Wednesday, as Bailie Nicol Jarvie in "Rob Roy." The *affiche* containing this important announcement was headed by a gigantic woodcut of the Royal arms, and set forth in imposing terms the previous status of Sir William as aide-de-camp to this, and officer in the other, all most important qualifications for a low comedian. Should he still continue to act, I will make a pilgrimage to Paddington in a night or two, and send you the result.

Mr. Buckstone is reported to have obtained a renewal of the lease of the Haymarket Theatre on such advantageous terms as will enable him to effect a reduction in the prices.

Mr. Robson, having recovered from his sprained ankle, has re-appeared at the Olympic. Mr. Wigan still continues very ill.

Shakespeare's "Richard the Second" is in active rehearsal at the Princess's, and I hear wonderful stories of the "effects" about to be introduced; amongst other things, a "tournament in the lists," with real armour and horses from Astley's.

An amateur performance, under distinguished patronage, will be given at the St. James's Theatre on the 14th instant, when the amateurs will be assisted by the professional aid of Miss Woolgar, Mrs. Daly, and Miss Wadhams.

THE BRITISH PORTRAIT GALLERY.—In pursuance of the votes to which both Houses came in the course of last session, a trust has been appointed for the formation of a gallery of portraits of the most eminent persons in British history. The trustees have already considered and adopted some general rules to govern their proceedings. These are as follow:—The rules which the trustees desire to lay down to themselves in either making purchases or receiving presents is to look to the celebrity of the person represented, rather than to the merit of the artist. They will attempt to estimate that celebrity without any bias to any political or religious party. Nor will they consider great faults and errors, even though admitted on all sides, as any sufficient ground for excluding any portrait which may be valuable as illustrating the civil, ecclesiastical, or literary history of the country. No portrait of any person still living, or deceased less than ten years, shall be admitted by purchase, donation, or bequest, except only in the case of the reigning sovereign, and of his or her consort, unless all the trustees in the United Kingdom, and not incapacitated by illness, shall either at a meeting or by letter signify their approbation. No portrait shall be admitted by donation, unless three-fourths at least of the trustees present at a meeting shall approve it.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.—The portrait of the Duke, published in No. 95 of the "Illustrated Times," was engraved from a photograph by Signor Colnaghi & Co., of Portchester Terrace, Bayswater.

THE LUND HILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

WE publish this week two engravings, representing the present aspect of the scene of the late fearful colliery explosion, from photographs kindly lent to us by Messrs. Parkins and De Mirimonde, of Barnsley. These illustrations will be found on the following page.

The excitement caused by this event appears to have in nowise abated. The inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of Abraham Turner, who was one of the nineteen men got out of the Lund Hill Colliery alive a few hours after the explosion, and who died on the following Saturday, was resumed on Monday.

John Warhurst, one of the firemen, was recalled, and asked whether he had come to any opinion as to the cause of the explosion. He replied that he had not, unless a trap-door had been left open.

Mr. W. Maddison, colliery viewer, of Barnsley, described the appearance of the pit when he went down it after the explosion—the finding of bodies and the rage of the fire. On coming back, in getting near the shaft, "We again went," he said, "towards the south end of the stables, in which we found the fire raging so furiously that it was utterly impossible for us to go near it. The whole length of the stables, and evidently from that point to the centre board-gate—a length of upwards of one hundred yards—was in one white sheet of flame. The sides of the coal, timber, and everything inflammable were on fire. It was fearful to contemplate the difference that had taken place in the state of the fire between the time of our going up the north board-gate and returning again. In the first instance we might have gone up to the fire and kicked it with our feet, but in the second, we durst not go within several yards of it. We went from the bottom of the down-cast to the bottom of the up-cast, the whole of the bottom of which was one white heat. It was like the bottom of a melting surface. We did not leave the pit until I myself felt convinced beyond a doubt that there could not be by any possibility any living person in the pit, excepting those who had descended after the explosion. When we came out of the pit there was a very strong current, and the flames were just peeping out of the cupola shaft. In pursuance of our unanimous decision we then closed the top of the down-cast shaft, leaving the cupola open. I cannot, from my examination, form any opinion as to what was the cause of the explosion."

Mr. Robert Charles Webster, colliery viewer, of Hoyland, was next examined. Looking to the fact that a very long time necessarily elapsed between the explosion and the entrance into the mine—that those who entered explored every place which they could penetrate for gas and foul air—and that the miners in the pit, if not killed outright by the explosion, must have been suffocated by after-damp—he thought it was impossible for anyone to be alive when he left, and if he and his party had remained longer, they too would have perished.

William Lodge, one of the colliers at Lund Hill, was examined at some length. He proved that on the evening before the explosion he found on entering his part of the workings that there had been a fall of the roof, and that Warhurst had marked upon his stool the words "Be careful." He sent for Warhurst, and complained of the bratticing being so distant from the face of the coal. Warhurst excused himself that he had but five yards of brattice, and a dozen of them wanted it. He told Warhurst that if the bratticing was not brought nearer, he would not work there. Warhurst told him to work with a lamp; and he made up his mind, that if the bratticing was not brought forward next day, he would leave the pit. Next day the explosion took place. He never complained to Mr. Coe or the deputy stewards about the bratticing.

At the end of the evidence of this witness, the inquiry was adjourned to Monday next, Mr. Morton intimating that it was very unlikely that the bodies would have been saved from the pit by that time.

THE EXTINCTION OF THE FIRE.

After deep consideration, the gentlemen to whom all the arrangements for the opening of the pit at Lund Hill were entrusted by the proprietors, at length decided upon letting the brook adjoining the works run into the pit. Painful as this course must have been to the relatives of the men left in the mine, those conversant with mining operations agree as to the wisdom of this step. At an early hour on Thursday week, therefore, pre-



THE LUND HILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION: RUINS OF THE AIR SHAFT.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

parations commenced for diverting the stream into the shaft. At first it ran but slowly; then took a sudden rush, and then poured down the shaft at the rate of 140 gallons per minute. The opening for the water into the shaft was made in the outer wall. It was expected that a considerable quantity of the explosive gas would rush from the opening thus made; but this was not the case. For several days after the stream was turned into the pit it was clear that the fire was still raging, though by no means so fiercely as at first; and it was thought that as soon as the water reached the vicinity of the air shaft, the fire would be quenched. As soon as the water reaches and quenches the burning matter, immediate operations will be commenced for drawing it (the water) from the pit. For this purpose a large oblong wooden vessel has been made capable of holding 500 gallons, which it is calculated can be made to ascend and descend once a minute. By this means the drawing of the water out of the mine will probably occupy about four or five days, and then an attempt to reach the bodies will be made. Then, it is to be feared, will occur one of the most painful scenes connected with this frightful calamity. All the bereaved will doubtless be eager to recognise those they have lost, but this will be very difficult, if not impossible, in the great majority of instances. Arrangements have been made by the proprietors for the immediate placing of the bodies which can and cannot be identified (according to the wish of the coroner) in a shed adjoining the works, free from the public gaze.

With regard to the number of bodies in the pit, which is put down in the official list as 182, it is to be feared that that is by no means a correct account. It is said by some of the men who were rescued, as well as by those who worked on the night-shift, that several of the names of the men who went down that morning, do not appear in the list. Two men who worked in the pit, and who reside in Barnsley, have neither been found nor have their names been published; and it is to be feared that others who were strangers to the locality, and but recently engaged at the works, have neither had their names recorded, nor yet been inquired for by relatives ignorant of their fate. Among the victims is a young man, the son of respectable parents residing near Holmfirth, who left home, and after pursuing a career of recklessness, was driven by want to work at this pit, where he had just been discovered by his parents. He had promised to return home on Saturday evening.

THE REV. JOHN MACNAUGHT.

WHO IS HE?

Who is the Rev. John Macnaught? is the question which will probably come into the minds of thousands of our readers when they see the portrait of the Rev. Gentleman; for though the controversy in which Mr. Macnaught has been involved has made no small stir in Liverpool—and his works have had comparatively a large circulation—yet at present even his name is strange to the vast majority of the people. We have, therefore, to answer this question, and, further, to show why we have printed his portrait in our pages. The Rev. John Macnaught, then, is incumbent of Saint Chrysostom's Church, Everton, Liverpool; he is about 30 years of age, was born in the island of Jamaica, where his father, who is still living, practised as a physician for a quarter of a century; and he is a cousin of the late Doctor Edward Turner, professor of chemistry in the University College, London. Mr. Macnaught was educated, first at private schools, then at the old proprietary school at Blackheath, and afterwards at Oxford, where, in 1847, he graduated in honours. In 1849 he was ordained as curate of a Liverpool district, in which St. Chrysostom's Church has since been built for him, by voluntary subscriptions, amounting to upwards of £6,000. That Mr. Macnaught is popular, is proved by the fact that though the church is large, being capable of accommodating 1,200 people, it is generally full; and of the 800 sittings which are let, not one has been vacant since the opening of the church.

JOINS A CLERICAL SOCIETY.

The reason why we have selected Mr. Macnaught's portrait for our gallery, we proceed now to unfold. In the town of Liverpool, as elsewhere, there has long been established an evangelical clerical society. It began on a small scale, and the proceedings at its meetings at first were little more than conversational; set discussion was rather eschewed. Some members advocated Calvinism, others took a broader view. Some pointed hostile texts against Rome, Oxford, Pusey; and others zealously advocated millenarian theories, and showed when it might be confidently expected that Hounsditch would emigrate to Jerusalem—fixed the date of the "final coming"—and made the meeting glow with the expectation of the triumph of "the righteous," and "the destruction of the wicked," &c., &c. In the early history of the society, it was so small that it met at the private

houses of the members; but subsequently it came to such dimensions, that it was obliged to have a fixed location; and, further, to pass rules to its government, and have officers—a president, vice-president, committee, and secretary. Moreover, it had as many as eighty clergymen in its books. Mr. Macnaught, it appears, became a member of this society about 1853, after he had become "the incumbent of St. Chrysostom's," but as curate of the late Mr. Ewbank, he had been an occasional visitor at the meetings since 1848. When Mr. Macnaught formally joined, had become an important assembly. Regular discussions were allowed—notice of the topics to be discussed had to be given—the range of subjects had become considerably enlarged—and free debate, which was at first discouraged, had been, not by formal resolution, yet by the rules for regulating the discussions, tacitly allowed. But soon, however, appeared, that in this ecclesiastical society—as it has always, sooner or later, been manifested in all ecclesiastical societies that have assembled—that perfectly free discussion, though allowed in theory, is an impossibility in practice. It always has been so, and probably always will be so. A society of Episcopalians will not allow Episcopacy to be debated; Scotch Presbyterians would be horrified if a brother were to get up and praise "black Prelacy;" a Trinitarian society would soon visit with condign punishment any member who should venture to discuss its fundamental creed; and Socinians, all liberal as they profess to be, would be quite as harsh against any one who should in their assemblies dare to talk approvingly of a Trinity. In short, however wide the latitude given in some religious societies as compared with others, still it is always really very narrow; and even where religious liberty is the very motto of the party, it will be found to mean only liberty to go as far as the party goes, and no further. "The saucer may be large in which the teetotum may spin; but still it is but a saucer, and over its boundary no adventurous teetotum is allowed to travel." This Mr. Macnaught soon discovered.

IS TOO LARGE FOR IT.

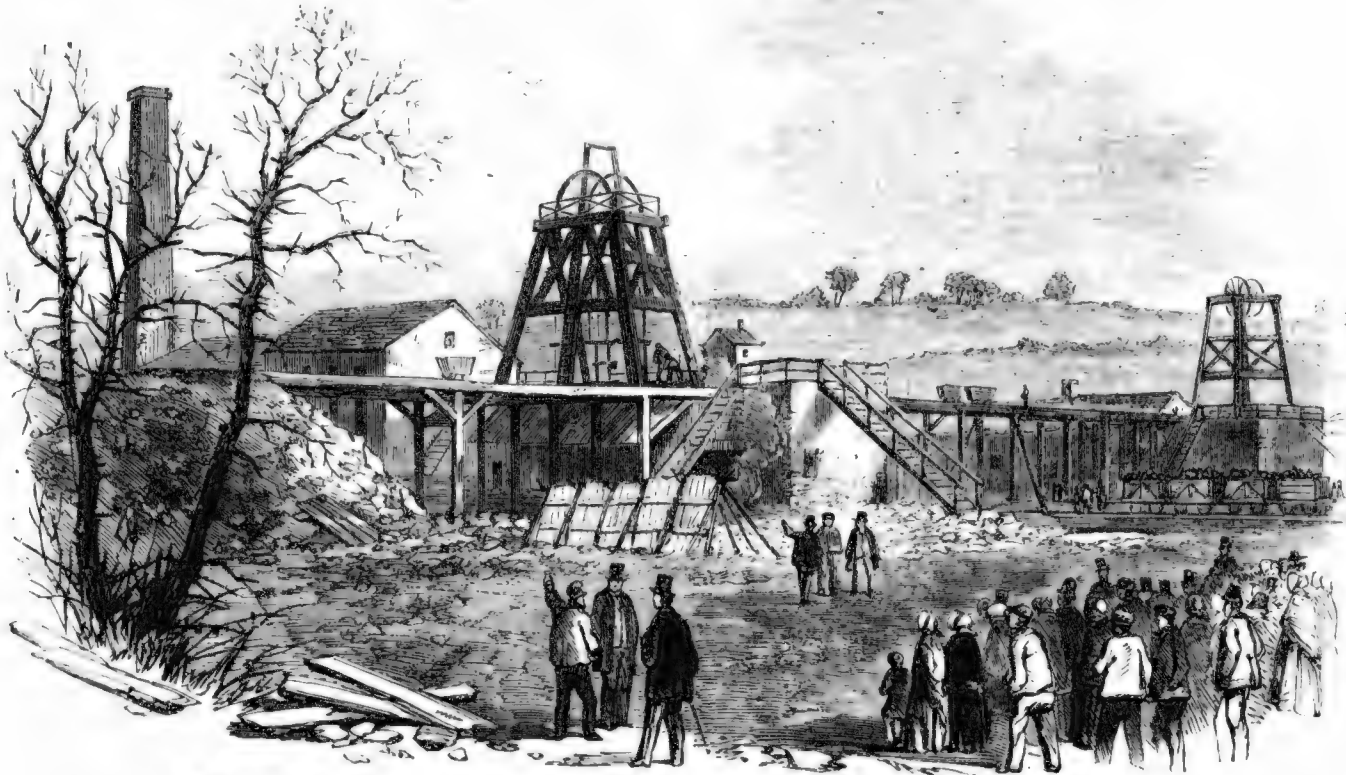
At a meeting of the society in 1854, the subject of the evening was the discrepancies of statement found in different parts of the Bible, especially in Acts vii. 1–16. When several explanations were offered, with the usual disregard of reason and logic which curiously characterises the discussions of divines on such a topic. In due course, the Chairman invited Mr. Macnaught to give his opinion; but, instead of settling the question, he only rendered the difficulties more perplexing by stating them more plainly; and the meeting closed with a strong impression on the minds of the members that the subject must have further discussion; and accordingly, on the 8th of January, 1855, the society again met, when a Dr. Baylee, feeling that the waters of orthodoxy had been troubled, proceeded to attempt to calm them by reading a paper, in which he asserted "that there was no logical resting-place between verbal inspiration and atheism. A man must either believe that every word was inspired, or he ought (logically) to deny the existence of a God." When Dr. Baylee had finished, Mr. Macnaught read an article, and boldly contended that "inspiration did not imply infallibility," whereupon of course there arose no small tumult. The audacious teetotum had dared to travel over the boundaries of the saucer, and to all who know what ecclesiastics are, and what they will do when their zeal for orthodoxy is thoroughly aroused, the result could never have been doubtful. Mr. Macnaught must be got rid of, especially when it was discovered that he had published his opinions in full to the world.

AND IS EXPELLED.

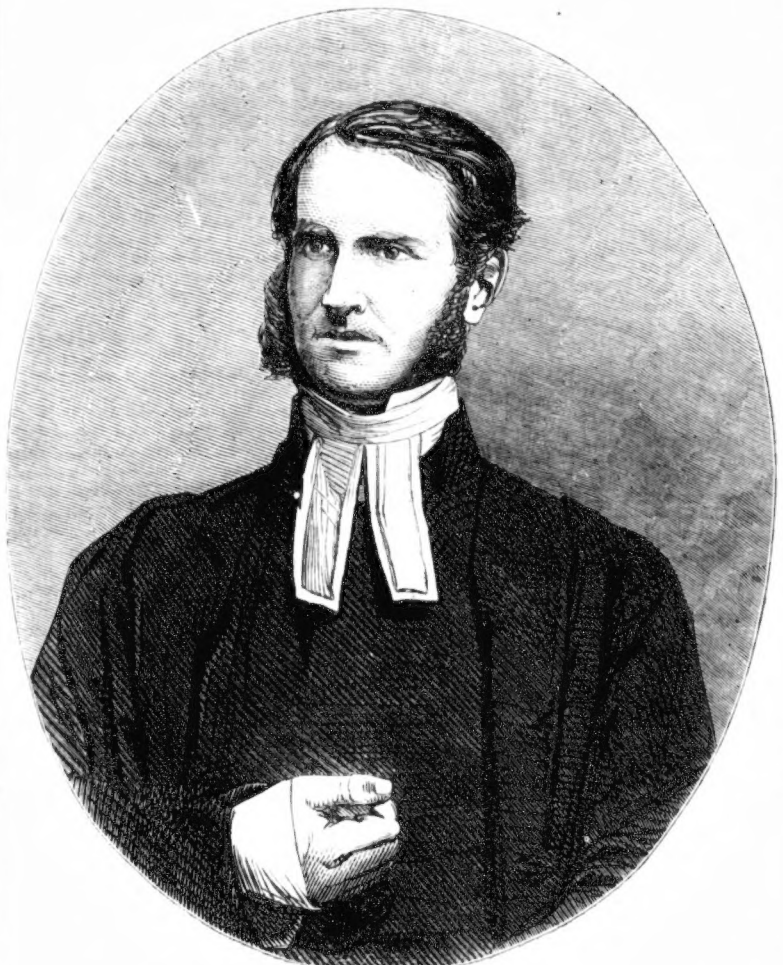
First it got whispered abroad that he was to be expelled, then, in the month of May in the following year, Dr. McNeill, one of the vice-presidents, called on Mr. Macnaught and had a long interview with him, during which he hinted the propriety of Mr. Macnaught's retiring from the society. To this private suggestion, however, he turned a deaf ear, and they parted, shaking hands, and apparently in the most friendly spirit. The friendship was, however, only apparent on one side, for three days afterwards, at the usual meeting, when Mr. Macnaught was present, "the Committee of Management," of which the friendly Dr. McNeill is a member, gave a notice of motion that at the next meeting a proposition would be made that Mr. Macnaught should be expelled. Mr. Macnaught expressed his surprise, and sought for an explanation; but the friendly Dr. McNeill rose to order, "There was no proposition before the meeting, and therefore there could be no discussion." The order of the day was then called, which was a discussion on "the Existence and Power of Satan," which is only worthy of notice from a curious confession made by one of the clergy present, who remarked that "his difficulty was not to believe in a devil, of that he found abundant proof in himself and in everything; his difficulty was to believe in a God." No steps, we believe, have however been taken as yet to expel this gentleman, who, according to his own account, is filled with the Devil, and doubts the existence of a God. But to return to Mr. Macnaught. At the next meeting in June the motion was brought on, and, after a long discussion, the following was the result:—For the expulsion, 55; against, 4; declined to vote, 3; absent, 15. The debate which preceded the division we cannot meddle with, nor can we discuss at all the subject matter of the dispute; such a discussion is obviously unsuited to our pages. We do not wish to appear as partisans in this movement, either one way or the other, but we have no hesitation in expressing our cordial sympathy with Mr. Macnaught as a courageous defender of the liberty to think and to give expression to thought. Mr. Macnaught does not at all appear to have suffered in influence by this expulsion—certainly not among his own congregation. On the contrary, they have rallied round him nobly; for very shortly after he had been "cast out" of this clerical Sanhedrim, his people met together at the school-room, and presented him with a handsome writing-table, as a testimony of their esteem. And the enthusiastic cheers which greeted the Reverend Gentleman when he arose to thank his friends, and at the close of his speech, amply prove that, amongst those who best know him, this act of priestly tyranny has done him no harm. The books which Mr. Macnaught has published are the following:—"On the Doctrine of Inspiration," at present out of print; "Free Discussion and Intolerance," being a narrative in full of all the circumstances attendant upon the expulsion; and "Inspiration a Reality, and Infallibility a Delusion," a pamphlet in answer to the Rev. Mr. Lowe.

STATE OF THE CHURCH.

The Church of England is just now presenting to the public some very curious and perplexing

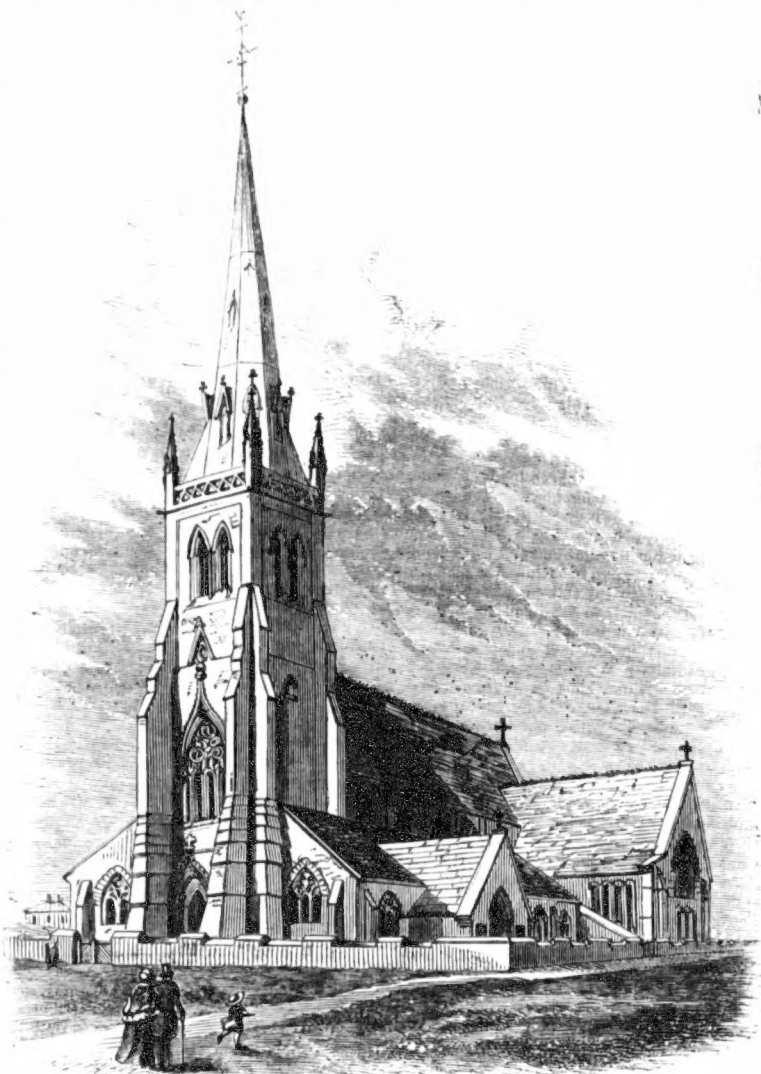


THE LUND HILL COLLIERY: MOUTH OF THE PIT.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN SHORTLY AFTER THE EXPLOSION.)



THE REV. JOHN MACNAUGHT, OF EVERTON, NEAR LIVERPOOL.
(FROM A DAGUERRTYPE.)

no remark, but merely present it to our readers as worthy of reflection. —
ST. CHRYSOSTOM'S CHURCH, EVERTON.
St. Chrysostom Church is situated in Audley Street, Everton. The first stone was laid by the Lord Bishop of the diocese (Chester) in 1851. The church was completed and opened in 1852, the architect being Mr. Rolles Brown. It contains 1,200 sittings, 400 of which are free. It has been quite filled from its opening, and not a seat has been since to let or unoccupied. From the increasing population of the district it was found necessary to erect this church, which will in a very short time be in the centre of a populous district, dwellings of all sorts springing up around it with great celerity. The total cost of the church was £4,500 besides £1,250 for the endowment and repair funds. Within the first year of its being opened the handsome sum of £1,000 was subscribed and collected by the congregation for the purchase of an organ and the repair and enlargement of the Mill Lane schools, which are connected with the church. Of the Incumbent of St. Chrysostom's we have already spoken, as well as of the circumstances which have brought him and his church into public notice. We need only add, that as the latter has supplied a long-felt desideratum, the former, we hope, is destined to run a popular and useful career.



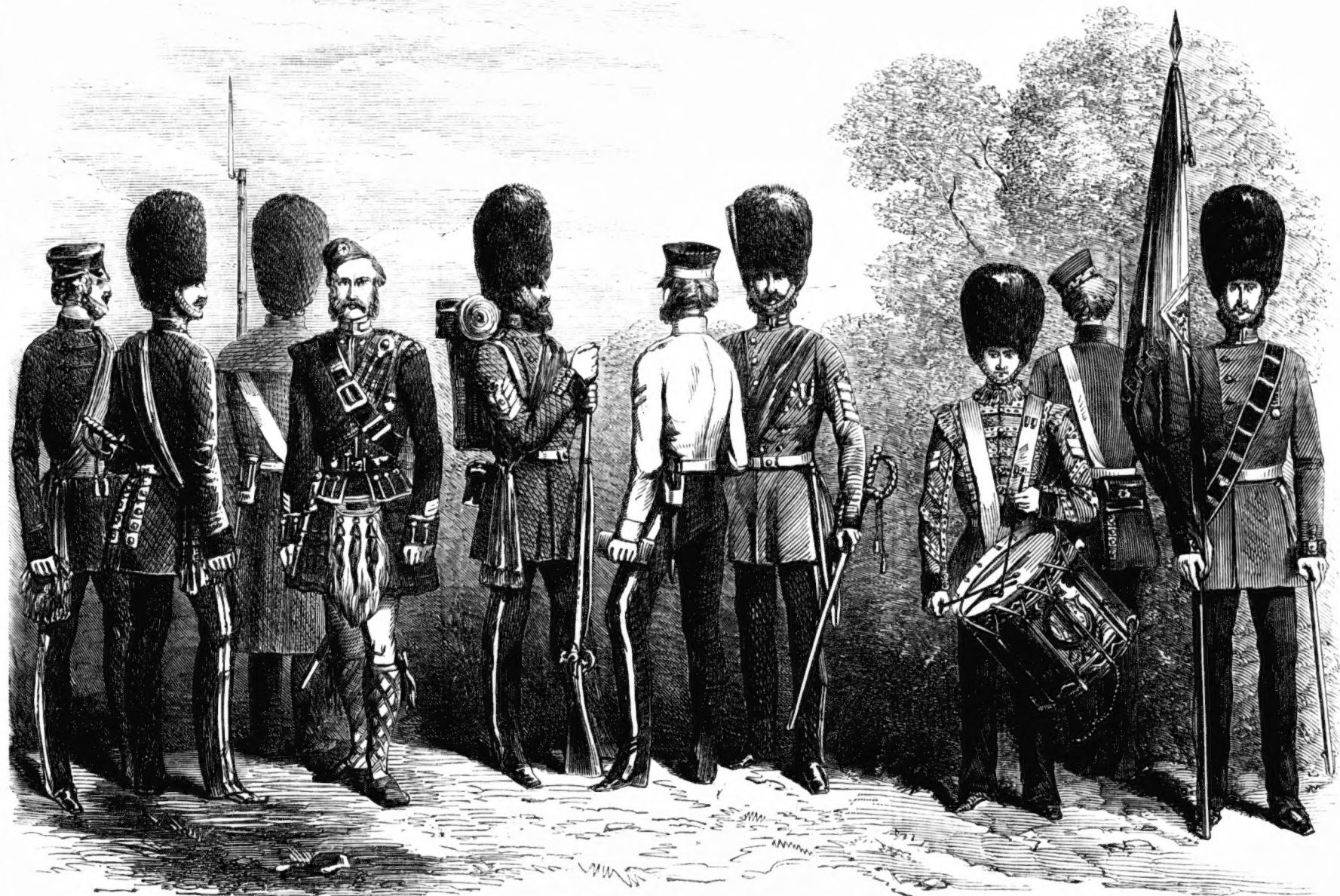
ST. CHRYSOSTOM'S CHURCH, EVERTON, NEAR LIVERPOOL.

phases. Mr. Macnaught, and with him many of the most thoughtful and intellectual of the church ministers, declare that the Bible is not infallible. His opponents declare that it is even to the very words; and Lord Skatesbury goes farther, and throws his shield over even the errors of the translation, and declares that to correct them would be dangerous to the faith of the people. Whereas, on the other hand, it has been decided by high authority, that Mr. Denison's opinions are not to be tried by the Bible at all, but by the 39 Articles. Upon this curious condition of affairs we make

THE NEW COSTUMES OF THE GUARDS.

DURING the last few years we have witnessed many changes in the habiliments of our gallant soldiers—changes which have not always secured public admiration on the score of taste, however desirable they may have been in other respects. The general effect of the Guards' new regimentals may be seen in the accompanying engraving. The old coat has been condemned, and a comfortable tunic substituted, while shoulder-straps of blue cloth have been exchanged for the worsted epaulettes, which

were far from being ornamental; this latter alteration has decreased the weight of the soldier very much. The breast of the new coat is made to turn down at the option of the wearer, showing its blue facings. The collar is a great improvement on the old one, having been considerably reduced in depth, which of course makes the soldier feel more at his ease. The manner of wearing the belts has been much improved, for the waist-belt has been substituted for the side-belt, which was formerly worn over the right shoulder. This is a much better plan, as the weight is now trans-



COLDSTREAMS: OFFICER, UNDERDRESS. GRENADIERS: OFFICER, FULL DRESS; NIGHT SENTINEL. SCOTS FUSILIERS: SERGEANT PIPER. GRENADIERS: COLOUR SERGEANT IN HEAVY MARCHING ORDER. COLDSTREAMS: CORPORAL IN FATIGUE DRESS; SERGEANT-MAJOR. SCOTS FUSILIERS: CORPORAL OF THE DRUMS; BARRACK GUARD; ENSIGN.

THE NEW COSTUMES OF THE GUARDS.—(FROM A DRAWING BY SERGEANT DRUMMOND.)

ferred from the chest to the hips. The guards' undress jacket is now made more loose and comfortable than hitherto, and their new unstiffened undress cap has been substituted for the hard unbending cap they used to wear.

The new greatcoat to be worn by the Coldstreams, is certainly much better than the one now in use; for the latter has a cape scarcely covering the shoulders, while the new one with a cape extending to the waist, will make the soldier almost luxuriously comfortable, as it will afford a degree of warmth highly desirable on bitter cold nights.

There can be no difference of opinion as to the foregoing changes being all of them improvements. The uniform may have lost something of its elaborate ornament, but it is still graceful and becoming, and the soldier looks freer and more at his ease than in the days of epaulettes, cross-belts, and pipe-clay. He is not so completely under the dominion of buckles and buttons, and looks all the happier and more natural for the relaxation. His individuality is not now so completely merged in his corporate existence as it used to be. He is more of a man and less of a machine, and no longer presents that monotonous resemblance to his comrades which so tickled the fancy of a French traveller, and caused him to exclaim, at a review in Hyde Park, "Morbien! they must have been all *borned* on the same day." Amongst those who, disregarding the comfort of the wearer, think that the eye alone is to be consulted in military costume, there are no doubt some who prefer the stiff regulation coat to the light and easy tunic; but the preference results from prejudice, and is akin to the pedantic feeling which, in an enlightened age, made men sigh for pig-tails and gaiters, camp-kettles and sergeants' lances. For our own part, we could never see the meaning of constricting the human esophagus with a band of leather as hard as iron, nor of buckling and belting an immortal being as if he were a bale of soft goods, which it was essential to compress as much as possible for the purpose of saving room. To say nothing of the discomfort of the thing, it is positively dishonourable to the dignity of manhood to treat one's fellow-creatures after such a fashion. What becomes of volition—where is there room for fancy, imagination, and the thoughts that wander through eternity, when a man is strapped and stocked to within an inch of his life? The system was to the full as absurd as it was inhuman, and we rejoice to think that it has been consigned to the same ignominious oblivion that has overtaken hoops, patches, powdered wigs, cocked hats, and knee-buckles. The drummers' old heavy epaulettes have been replaced by wings of blue cloth and blue and white fringe, which certainly has lightened his shoulders. The officers' uniform has undergone the same change as the privates', their epaulettes, which were very heavy and cumbersome, have been condemned, a plain cord on the shoulder being the farthest attempt to replace them; their swords, formerly with leathers, now with steel scabbards, (which, of course, will be much more durable), are now slung so as to be available on horseback or on foot; the sash which was formerly worn around the waist, is now worn over the shoulder. The Scots Fusiliers have lately obtained the privilege of having one piper-major and five pipers attached to each battalion; their dresses are very rich.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

THIS decoration, which, as recorded in our last week's journal, has been presented to some eighty or ninety soldiers, sailors, and officers of both services, consists of a Maltese cross, formed from the cannon captured from the Russians. In the centre of the cross is the Royal Crown, surmounted by the lion, and below it a scroll bearing the words, "For valour." The ribbon is blue for the navy, and red for the army. On the clasp are two branches of laurel, and from it, suspended by a Roman V, hangs the proudest honour an Englishman's blood can buy. The decoration (of which an engraving appeared in the "Illustrated Times" of July 19, 1856) carries with it a pension of £10 a year.

In the "Gazette" which contained a list of those on whom this decoration has been conferred, a sort of biographical notice is appended to each name, recording in every case some act of daring. Many took up and threw away live shells with the fuzee burning; many rescued wounded comrades under a heavy fire; some were conspicuous for devotion to their leaders; some for gallantly fighting alone against numbers; others engaged and succeeded in the most desperate actions, where success was the highest service; and all, officers and privates, are so blended in these actions, that, in point of valour, the officer and the private stand on the same level. Where all are brave, it may seem invidious to take instances; but it is not really so, for a few will fitly represent the brotherhood in valour.

Commander Cecil William Buckley, and Commander John Talbot Burgoyne, then Lieutenants, assisted by John Roberts, Gunner, volunteered to land and burn Russian stores at Genitchi; and landing in the presence of 3,000 Russian troops, did what they went to do. Joseph Trewavas, seaman, "cut the hawsers of the floating bridge in the Straits of Genitchi, under a heavy fire of musketry, on which occasion he was wounded." Commander C. M. Merrell, and William Rickard, Quartermaster, crossed the isthmus of Arabat and the Sivash, and destroyed forage and stores in the Crimea; Rickard, in the retreat, gallantly carrying on his back a third man who fell in the mud. Captain William Piel took up a live shell, that fell among some powder-cases, on the 18th October, 1854; the fuzee was still burning, and the shell burst as he threw it over the parapet. He also fought with the Guards at the Sandbag Battery in the Inkermann fight. John Shepherd, boatswain, tried twice to enter the harbour of Sebastopol in a punt and sink an exploding apparatus among the Russian war-ships. John Pretjohn, corporal, Royal Marines, "reported for gallantry at the battle of Inkermann, having placed himself in an advanced position, and noticed as himself having shot four Russians." Private Samuel Parkes, of the Fourth Light Dragoons, won his cross in this wise—"In the charge of the Light Cavalry Brigade at Balaklava, Trumpet-Major Crawford's horse fell, and dismounted him, and he lost his sword; he was attacked by two Cossacks, when Private Samuel Parkes (whose horse had been shot) saved his life by placing himself between them and the Trumpet-Major, and drove them away by his sword. In attempting to follow the Light Cavalry Brigade in the retreat, they were attacked by six Russians, whom Parkes kept at bay, and retired slowly fighting, and defending the Trumpet-Major for some time, until deprived of his sword by a shot." Andrew Henry, then Sergeant-Major of the G battery, defended the guns of his battery against overwhelming numbers of the enemy at the battle of Inkermann, and continued to do so until he had received twelve bayonet wounds. Corporal John Ross of the Engineers, for distinguished conduct on several specified occasions, and for intrepid and devoted conduct in creeping to the Redan in the night of September 8, 1855, and reporting its evacuation, on which his occupation by the English took place. Sapper John Perie was "invaluable" on the 18th June. Sergeant Alfred Ablett, of the Coldstream Guards, "on the 2nd September, 1855, seeing a shell fall in the centre of a number of ammunition-cases and powder, instantly seized and threw it outside the trench; it burst as it touched the ground." Private Mathew Hughes, of the Seventh Regiment, went twice to the Quarries with ammunition under a heavy fire. Corporal Philip Smith, of the Seventeenth, repeatedly went out and rescued wounded comrades on the 18th June. Brevet-Major Frederick C. Elton, of the Fifty-fifth Regiment, on the 4th August, 1855, when there was some hesitation shown, in consequence of the severity of the fire, went into the open, and working with pick and shovel, thus showed the best possible example to the men. A rifle-pit was occupied by two Russians, who annoyed our troops by their fire; Private M'Gregor, of the Rifles, crossed the open space under fire, and taking cover under a rock, dislodged them, and occupied the pit.

THE NEW YORK MURDER.—In the Burdell case the jury had returned a verdict of wilful murder against Mrs. Cunningham, Eckel, and another person named Snodgrass. They were of opinion that the daughters of Mrs. Cunningham were also implicated, and recommended their safe keeping. Snodgrass said, in reply to the Coroner, "I am entirely innocent; I know nothing whatever of the facts relating to the murder of Dr. Burdell. If any one knows anything about the murder in the family, I think it is Miss August A. Cunningham, with the mother; understand me—that is, if the murder was perpetrated by any of the inmates of the house."

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM SNAKE BITES within the jurisdiction of the Bombay Presidency, has led to the offer of a reward for their extinction. The result is, that nearly 300 snakes are killed and brought in every day.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE past week has been especially distinguished by the doings, in their usual style, of the rural magistracy. One point, with respect to their decisions, which especially deserves notice, is that suggested by the amount of the costs of the justices' clerks, even upon nominal fines. It must be a lucrative appointment for a rural attorney, that of clerk to a district justice. To be sure, he is obliged as far as possible to advise his superior against any very flagrant display of legal ignorance; but it is no part of his duty to attempt to mitigate a severity which, exploding in fines, serves only to put fees into the pocket of the clerk. At the Ross Petty Sessions last week a little boy of ten was charged with playing at marbles in the Market Place. He was fined sixpence with 6s. 6d. costs, with imprisonment for one week in default. At the Coleford Petty Sessions, two poor women were tried for having gone into a field to rake out their wretched dinner by taking—not turnips—but a few leaves from the tops of that vegetable. The penalty and costs (we are not informed of the separate sums) amounted to 16s. 9d. in each case, and in default each was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment with hard labour. From a source upon which we can depend, we learn that within the last few days some popular excitement has been manifested in a southern sea-port town under the following circumstances.—One of the inhabitants, a married man, had misconducted himself, and intelligence was given that on a certain evening, effigies of him and of a female whose name had incurred connection with the matter, were to be paraded past his dwelling and finally burned. It is said that the local magistrate, a deaf and otherwise incompetent person, attended upon the spot, and the effigy-bearers having taken warning and abstained from demonstration, this representative of law and order called a file of marines, ordered them to be supplied with ten rounds of ball cartridge, and procured from a neighbouring house a lighted candle, by the help of which he stammered through the Riot Act, to the edification of a crowd of ragged street-boys, whom curiosity had drawn to the spot, but who dispersed readily enough upon some intelligent person assuring them that they were to be fired upon in the event of their remaining. This happened upon Friday week, and the local paper with an account of the affair will therefore not appear until after the publication of our impression. Should the account we have received be thereby confirmed, as we confidently anticipate, we may recur to this matter. In Buckinghamshire, a man named Charles Hazell, proved by the evidence to be honest, industrious, and respectable, was charged with trespassing on ground of the Rev. J. J. Drake, in search of game. The Reverend Gentleman, who was on the bench when the case was called, left it for the occasion, confidently consigning the case to his colleagues and friends. It seems that a trap had been set in a public lane, close to the reverend gentleman's park palings. A rabbit, snared thereby, was just within the pales. The affair appears to us less like a trap for rabbits than for rustics, especially as the witness was handy to the spot. The accused, probably the first person who passed since the trap had been placed, took the rabbit, as ninety out of a hundred people would have done. He was fined one pound, with sixteen shillings costs; in default, one month's imprisonment. The well-known Holt rabbit cases, in which poor men are occasionally fined for taking rabbits from a common on which their right to rabbits has hitherto been acknowledged from time immemorial, have received another accession this week, a man having been fined two pounds, and sentenced to two months' hard labour in default, for trespass in taking a rabbit from a hole in the common. The names of the two Haslingden magistrates, whose disgraceful quarrel on the bench we recorded last week, have been struck out from the commission of the peace, they having, it is said, anticipated their dismissal.

The wretched shareholders of the Royal British Bank are still suffering severely from the state of the law with respect to the winding up of similar companies. There appears to be a perfect rush of actions against the official manager by depositors, who, having already waited vainly a reasonable time for settlement, have now grown disgusted with the delay and the proceedings, which appear to have had only costs for their object. One fact in connection with these actions may be stated. We will not trust ourselves to comment upon it, as shareholders and depositors will probably do when they learn and understand it. It is known that the writs are in the first instance addressed to the official manager. We believe that usually this gentleman, instead of submitting to be served with the copies, refers the attorneys' clerks to his solicitors. An undertaking is then given, and an appearance is entered, necessitating to the plaintiff the delivery of a declaration and a taxation of costs, and increasing the amount of his costs between two and three pounds at least beyond what they need have been upon a simple judgment for want of appearance. Moreover, this proceeding entails certain costs to be paid to the solicitor for the official manager—say about two pounds in each case. Perhaps mere laymen will scarcely understand this little contrivance; but those interested in the subject may easily receive from any legal friend an explanation of the hints we have given, and which our space will scarcely allow us to elaborate.

In a recent action against a Welch railway, Sir Frederick Thesiger, who was counsel for the plaintiff, admitted in his opening address that a certain amount of insurance against accidental death which had been received by the plaintiff, a widow, on her late husband's account, ought to be set off against the damages recoverable by her from the railway company, on whose line his death had occurred in consequence of some accident. As this principle was thus admitted on the side of the party whose interest it was to contest it, we need scarcely add that the verdict being for the plaintiff, was regulated as to amount in accordance therewith. Since that time the matter has been pretty fully discussed by the public and the press, and the absurdity of rehedding a man's prudent purchase of a life policy utterly useless, by deducting the amount of insurance from the damages recoverable by his surviving relatives has been freely commented upon by many who have erroneously supposed it to be sanctioned by the law. As this idea, if general, would injure the accidental death insurance companies, the secretary of one of them has called attention to a clause in the company's act, expressly declaring "that no contract with the company, or money received therefrom, shall in any way prejudice or affect any right of action for compensation." As this, however, does not apply to ordinary insurance companies, it should be generally known that the unlucky admission of Sir Frederick was a mere error. Had the counsel on the opposite side started such a curious and utterly insupportable proposition, there is no doubt that it would have been at once run to earth. Carry it out to its extent, and if a poor man, heavily insured, as such a one may be for a mere trifle, were to be killed by the negligence or misconduct of a railway company, it ought not only to be let off without amercement, but to be rewarded by a share of the profits of the suddenly enriched family.

A west-end tailor, named Folkard, appeared before the Bankruptcy Court, on Monday last, for his certificate. He had, besides his trade, embarked largely in money-lending transactions with fashionable young men, chiefly in the army. The bankrupt's solicitor attributed the bankruptcy mainly to the fact of most of his client's customers having been sent out to the Crimea. This Russian war appears to have had certainly one beneficial result—namely, that of teaching a severe lesson to a large portion of the bill-discounting ogres, who habitually lend money to "minors," speculating upon a feeling of false "honour" in the bosoms of their victims as the only security for repayment. It is, perhaps, not generally known that, in every station which young men of position and prospects are called upon to fulfil, usurious harpies are to be found upon the watch, generally under the guise of traders in necessary articles, but using every art to decoy their quarry into lavish expenditure, to be met only by a recourse to the bill system, the surest road to disgrace and ruin. In the army these men appear as tailors and jewellers; to the government clerk they are only too willing to advance the salary which, by a noxious red-tape regulation, is made payable quarterly only; and the artist finds them under the disguise of picture-frame makers. In this case the Commissioner remarked severely upon the injurious results of this class of trading, than which, he said, none could be more ruinous to society. He believed that the West End abounds with such traders, who ought not to be placed upon the same footing as *bona fide* traders. The certificate was suspended for twelve months, to be of the third class when granted. Now it happens that a very simple remedy might be devised for this class of business, thus judicially acknowledged to be ruinous to society. This would be simply to oblige the man who lends money upon usury, to take

out a license so to do, just as others are obliged to do in order to sell excisable articles or lend horses. The necessity of the announcement of the fact of such license would be, to a great extent, a warning to those who might otherwise fall into his clutches, mistaking him for an ordinary honest tradesman. And now that the usury laws are repealed, and that the advancement of money is known to be commercially the most profitable, and the most injurious trade under the sun, there can be no reason why its followers should not be taxed for the public benefit, or why their names and avocations should not be made known.

A woman went into a cheap photographic establishment in Whitechapel, kept by an American artist, in order to have a likeness taken of her little boy. A misunderstanding arose in connection with the payment, and in a scuffle which ensued, the professor struck his customer over the head with a hammer. For this he was brought up to the Thames Police-court, and by *some* *luna justitia*, as it appears to us, fined twenty shillings and discharged. The money was paid on Thursday; on Friday the woman became seriously ill; on Saturday it was found that her skull was fractured; and on Monday she died, and the photographer was arrested for manslaughter. Hereupon arises a curious point (supposing the man to be guilty) as to his liability to be tried twice for the same offence. He has already been punished—after a certain fashion—for the improper use of his hammer. If he be subsequently tried and convicted of the manslaughter, and sentenced—say to transportation—ought not at least the twenty shillings to be returned?

Active means are in progress for the suppression of Greenwich fair, which for many years past has been degraded from its character of a suburban *fete* of the working classes to an excuse for the congregation of the lowest supporters of vice, ruffianism, and theft. Year after year, the press has called attention to the assemblage of blackguardism which, twice in every year, has been allowed to establish its saturnalia in this unfortunate town, but it is only within the last week that it appears to have been discovered that the fair is illegal.

THE MURDER OF A GAMEKEEPER IN CUMBERLAND.

At the Carlisle Spring Assizes William Graham was tried, before Mr. Baron Martin, for the murder of Thomas Simpson, a gamekeeper in the service of Mr. Featherstonhaugh, of Stafford Hall.

The widow of the murdered man, Margaret Simpson, would have been called as the first witness, but she was confined on the very day of the trial. Her evidence, taken before the magistrates, was read, and showed that, on the night of the 15th of November last, her husband came in from watching about nine o'clock. He had been out several times through the evening. He heard several guns fired, but thought they were on Sir George Musgrave's side, over the river Eden. He put on his upper coat about ten, put his pistol in his inner breast pocket, and said he was going to the place where he generally went to watch at night, behind some wall. In a very short time she heard a double-barrelled gun fired close at hand. Her husband never returned. She heard him say, on the day before his death, or the day before that, that he had seen one of the Grahams swaggering with his gun. On the morning of his death he got up before dawn to look out for the Graham. He did not say that he suspected any other persons. Next day, which was a Sunday, men went out to search for Simpson, and James Elliott, the farm bailiff, and John Pharaoh, one of the county police, on Monday found the man's body lying in the river. The man's head had been beaten to pieces. It was proved that Graham, who was a farm labourer, on the evening of the murder told another man, Francis Boustead, that he was going out to shoot that night. He said he knew where their game sat. He knew every foot and track of the ground, and "if his keeper comes to me this night, out goes his brains; but I will speak once to him. I will tell him to stand back, and if he stirs an inch towards me after I speak, out goes his brains. I neither fear heaven nor hell, God nor devil. I will be in either heaven or hell before a month is over. I will never die with my shoes off." He then put his hand up to his neck, and said, "I don't care if I be hung up by the neck to-morrow." He turned and went straight out. An hour or two afterwards he came very tipsy to the house of a woman he knew, Susan Hogarth, with a gun.

After prisoner was given into custody, he made, on the 21st of December, the following statement—"I was very drunk, and I went out to shoot in Eden Banks. I saw a man. He told me to stand. I ran away, and he fired a pistol, which did not hit me. After running ten or a dozen yards, I tumbled. He came up and got hold of me, and we had a scuffle. He tried to get the gun from me. I cleared myself of him, and then struck him two or three times with the small end of the gun. The third blow felled him, and the gun broke off behind the lock. I then took the stock from the barrel, and brayed him till he was dead. I trailed him to the water, and put him in."

The prisoner's brother, Henry Graham, stated, that on the day after the murder, prisoner told him the same.

This being the evidence, the Learned Judge observed that there was but one point in the case which required consideration. If the pistol were really fired, the man had a right to act in self-defence.

Mr. Monck then addressed the jury for the defence, stigmatising as a gross fabrication the story of Boustead, upon whose testimony alone the charge of malice aforesaid could be sustained.

His Lordship likewise, in summing up, treated that witness's evidence as a mere concoction, simply and solely for the purpose of obtaining the reward of £100 which had been offered. If the jury were of the same opinion, it would be their duty to bring in a verdict of manslaughter; if not, it would require a jury of lawyers to distinguish the case from one of wilful murder, were it even susceptible of such a distinction.

The jury consulted for a few minutes, and then found a verdict of "Manslaughter." The announcement was received with loud cheers.

His Lordship then sentenced the prisoner to be transported for life, remarking that his crime approached as near to that of murder as could possibly be.

THE BURGLARY AT ASHOVER.—Thomas Wootan, the man who was apprehended at Birmingham for the burglary at Ashover, underwent examination on Monday. The evidence of the Rev. Mr. Nodder and his wife exactly corresponded with the report which appeared in our last impression. We may remark, however, that Mr. Nodder appeared not a little proud of his exploit. Several other witnesses were examined, who proved that the prisoner was near the prosecutor's house about the time of the burglary, and traced him, after he was wounded by Mr. Nodder, towards Birmingham, where he was apprehended. The surgeon of the Birmingham police-station said he found fifteen shot-marks on the prisoner's stomach, with some recent bruises. The prisoner's left ankle was swollen as if from a strain. The prisoner made no statement beyond occasionally remarking on the evidence, and he was committed for trial at the Derby assizes.

CRUELTY TO AMERICAN SEAMEN.—John Lyons, Edward Moore, and William Harrison have been taken to the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, from on board the American ship *Wandering Jew*, from New Orleans. They state that they were kidnapped at New Orleans, and whilst in an unconscious state, taken on board the *Wandering Jew*. They sailed from New Orleans on the 13th Jan., and scenes of violence immediately commenced. On the first day the chief mate knocked a man down and jumped on him; and the poor fellow was repeatedly dipped in a large tub of water, being hauled up and dropped again by the ship's tackle; he was then turned into his berth on the fore-castle, and in two days afterwards was a corpse. The body, when thrown overboard, was quite black. The first and third mates, named respectively Belize and Hordon, continued their course of ill-usage during the whole of the passage. On the first day at sea the third mate struck Harrison in the eye, knocked him down, and kicked him severely. On the same day the first mate struck Moore in the eye, and fractured the bone of his nose. The men are now in a pitiable condition. Lyons is suffering from a disabled knee, and Moore from a bad foot, both the result of kicks repeatedly inflicted; Harrison is still in a weak state; and all complain of injuries from continual ill-usage. It appears that immediately after the ship's arrival in the river, the first and third mates made their escape. As the offence above described occurred on the high seas, on board a vessel carrying the American flag, the authorities here have no power to interfere without special instructions from the Secretary of State. It is to be hoped, however, for the sake of humanity and justice, that the matter will be fully investigated.

POLICE.

A SERIOUS CASE.—The Southwark magistrate has been engaged in investigating charges of a very serious nature against two of the wealthiest hide merchants and glue manufacturers in the district of the court. Four labourers were charged with stealing upwards of eight hundredweight of hide-pieces from the premises of Mr. Arthur Waring, hide merchant, Spa Road, Bermondsey; and Messrs. James Proctor and Alfred Bevington appeared on summonses charging them with receiving the same from one of the prisoners, knowing them to be stolen. In the latter part of January Mr. Waring closed his yard, owing to the severe frost, and Tobin (one of the accused) was among the men he discharged. He was seen afterwards leaving Mr. Waring's premises with bundles of hide-pieces, but the persons who saw him believed he was still in employ. On the 29th and 30th of January he hired a cart of a greengrocer, living in the Spa Road, and conveyed a number of bundles of hide-pieces from Mr. Waring's premises to Messrs. Proctor and Bevington's, hide merchants and glue manufacturers, in the Grange Road, to whom he sold them at a much lower price than the then market value. The defence was that Messrs. Proctor and Bevington believed the transaction to be bona fide and honest, and that the regular price had been given for the pieces. The case, however, was sent for trial, and the members of the firm were held to bail to appear and answer the charge at the assizes.

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